

IDEAS *in* ACTION

PB Voting Guidance

January 15 - February 15, 2026



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

VOTING OVERVIEW

From **January 15 to February 15, 2026**, Boston residents will be able to vote **online** and **in-person** at City Hall for their top 5 proposals.

Who can vote and what is needed?

- Only City of Boston residents who are 11 years or older can vote.
- Only one vote per resident is allowed.
- **For online voting:** Voters need a valid cell phone number to vote, as they will receive a code that will give them access to the voting site.
 - If residents don't have a cell phone number, they can contact the Office of Participatory Budgeting to request a unique code. Residents can email pb@boston.gov or call 617-635-2381.

Note: The Office will fund up to \$2.2 million in project proposals. Implementation of the winning projects is expected to begin in the spring of 2026.



PB VOTING PLATFORM



ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 1: INTRODUCTION / LANGUAGE SELECTION

- 1) Introduction to Ideas in Action and the voting process
- 2) Select a language for the voting website.



ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 2: VOTER ELIGIBILITY

1. Confirm voting requirements.
2. Enter your first and last name and neighborhood (drop down box).

(Of note, none of this information will be tied with voting, but is required as part of acknowledging voter eligibility requirements.)

3. Check the affirmation box and hit the “confirm” button to move to the next page.

Voter Eligibility

I understand that to vote in Participatory Budgeting 2026, I must:

- Be a City of Boston resident
- Only vote one time
- Be at least 11 years old (or at least in 6th grade)

First name

John

Last name

Smith

Neighborhood

select... ▼

☐ By checking this box, I affirm that these statements are true and that I meet the voting eligibility requirements

Confirm ✓

ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 3: VOTER AUTHENTICATION

In order ensure access the voting ballot and ensure one vote per person participants will either need to:

1. **Provide their personal cell phone number to access a one time SMS code**

OR

2. **Those who do not have a cell phone will need to email the Office of Participatory Budgeting for a one time PIN code.**




Authentication

Ideas in Action

Select how you authenticate your vote.

To authenticate your vote, please enter your cell phone number.

Your phone number will be used to send you an SMS code to access a ballot and ensure one vote per person.

 +1

XXX-XXX-XXXX

For more info see user verification [terms of service](#).

I don't have a cell phone.

Have PIN from somewhere else?

[← Back](#)

ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 4: VOTE FOR PROJECTS

1. Please review all project proposals.
2. Participants can **select up to five (5) projects and a minimum of (1) one project.**
3. Once projects are selected, scroll to the bottom of the page.
4. Hit “confirm” to submit your vote.

Ideas in Action

Instructions:
Vote for up to five projects that will have the biggest impact on YOUR community!

Publicly Accessible Fruit Trees for Boston Residents



Cost: \$500,000

This proposal will offer grants to nonprofit organizations to plant fruit trees and bushes on underutilized land for public access and use. This will create healthier air, protect our green space, help with food insecurity, and be a cheaper source of organic produce.

Community organizations must prioritize areas that experience increased heat during the summer, as well as locations where there is limited access to affordable, nutritious food. Sustainable fruit cultivation practices should be used, and managing partners must have a robust rodent management plan.

Select ✓

Support and Education Programming for at Risk Youth Ages 10-13



Cost: \$300,000

This proposal will offer grants to nonprofit organizations to provide high-quality and engaging programming for Boston youth, aged 10 to 13, living in communities disproportionately affected by crime and violence.

The goal of these grants will be to increase the variety of youth programming in the city, offer a positive outlet for young people when they are not in school, and foster safe and supportive environments.

Select ✓

NOTE: Project examples from last year's PB cycle.

ONLINE VOTING PLATFORM

STEP 5: THANK YOU + SURVEY

1. After submitting your vote you will reach the “Thank you” page.
2. For more information visit our website or email the Office of Participatory Budgeting.
3. Please fill out the optional evaluation survey to help improve Ideas in Action.

Ideas in Action

Instructions:
Please answer a few short questions to help the City of Boston understand who is participating and how. Your responses to the questions below will be anonymous. You can skip any questions you do not want to answer.

1. What is your age (in years)?

please write...

2. Do you identify with any of the following in terms of your race and/or ethnicity?

Check all that apply. Some choices below may not be perfect for you, but please answer as best you can. Use the write-in option to add more details or add another group you identify with.

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino/-a/-e/-x

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White

Prefer not to answer

Race or ethnicity not listed here

Other (write-in)

3. What was your household income in the past 12 months?

Choose one:

Less than \$14,999

\$15,000 to \$34,999

\$35,000 to \$49,999

\$50,000 to \$74,999

\$75,000 to \$99,999


\$100,000 to \$149,999

\$150,000 or more

I don't know

Prefer not to answer

Continue →



Thank you for your submission!

Your vote has been counted.

For more information on Participatory Budgeting, please visit boston.gov/participate or email us at pb@boston.gov.

Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter with important PB updates, kindly provide your email address.



By submitting your email, you are consenting to join our mailing list and receive communications from us.

Your email address

john.doe@email.com

Submit ✓

Please share with your community!



← Back to the beginning

IN-PERSON VOTING

City Hall (Paper Ballots)

- **Locations:** Front entrance lobby desk and 2nd floor entrance desk (by the Credit Union).
- **Volunteers at the front desk will be ready** to hand out ballots to residents who request them.
- Each ballot will be accompanied by an optional evaluation survey.
- If not volunteers are present, residents can call **617-635-2381** to request assistance.

Selected BCYF Community Centers

- **Locations:** Martin Pino Community Center, Quincy Community Center/BPS Josiah Quincy Elementary School; Holland Community Center; Leahy Holloran Community Center, Hennigan Community Center; Vine Street Community Center.
- **BCYF staff will assist/guide residents** so they can cast their vote.



Note: Library branches across the City will have a poster displaying information on how to vote online via phone or computer.

IN-PERSON VOTING - Ballot (Example)

WELCOME TO IDEAS IN ACTION, THE CITY OF BOSTON'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING INITIATIVE!

From January 15 to February 15, 2026, Boston residents can VOTE and **decide on how \$2.2 million in Participatory Budgeting funds will be invested in community-driven projects across the City.**

Selected projects are a one-time, non-recurring investment, and will be implemented beginning this spring 2026.

Make your voice heard—vote for up to five (5) projects!

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Review all proposals
- Select up to five (5) ideas
- Drop the ballot into the box



Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. The goal of Participatory Budgeting in Boston is to empower residents to elevate community centered project ideas with an emphasis on social and racial equity.

By engaging in Participatory Budgeting, Bostonians of all ages and backgrounds can help inform priorities and future investments for the City's larger budget process.



IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION!

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

I understand that to vote in Participatory Budgeting 2026, I must:

- Be a City of Boston resident
- Only vote one time
- Be at least 11 years old (or at least in the 6th grade)

☐ By checking this box, I affirm that these statements are true and that I meet the voting eligibility requirements.



Office of Participatory Budgeting
CITY of BOSTON

PLEASE SHARE THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU LIVE IN:

Select up to five (5) ideas

1 ☐ NEIGHBORHOOD FRESH FOOD ACCESS INITIATIVE
Proposed Funding: \$500,000

2 ☐ IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND
Proposed Funding: \$400,000

3 ☐ IMMIGRANT STORIES THROUGH ART: CREATING BELONGING, BUILDING CONNECTIONS
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

4 ☐ WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON TRADES
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

5 ☐ IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS: BRIDGING LANGUAGE AND EMPLOYMENT
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

6 ☐ YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS
Proposed Funding: \$250,000

7 ☐ SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE PROGRAM
Proposed Funding: \$250,000

8 ☐ COMMUNITY LITTER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

9 ☐ GREEN MY BLOCK
Proposed Funding: \$100,000

10 ☐ VOICES OF RECOVERY: SOBRIETY SUPPORTS AND STORYTELLING PILOT
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

11 ☐ HEALING THROUGH ART: CREATIVE PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS
Proposed Funding: \$300,000

12 ☐ BRIDGING THE GAP: ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING STABILITY
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

13 ☐ SENIOR CAREGIVER RESOURCES & TRAINING PROGRAMS
Proposed Funding: \$200,000

IN-PERSON VOTING - Info Sheet *(Laminated in Multiple Languages)*

IDEAS in ACTION



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

3 IMMIGRANT STORIES THROUGH ART: CREATING BELONGING, BUILDING CONNECTIONS

This proposal provides grants to showcase immigrant stories and contributions through public art installations and galleries. It will support free, accessible cultural programs that feature immigrant artists to challenge stereotypes, using transparent and inclusive processes to ensure diverse community participation.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000

5 IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS: BRIDGING LANGUAGE AND EMPLOYMENT

This proposal provides grants for ESOL classes combined with skills training and certifications in childcare, construction, and small business development.

The program addresses language barriers and workforce needs for immigrant residents while meeting the city's demand for qualified workers.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000

1 NEIGHBORHOOD FRESH FOOD ACCESS INITIATIVE

This proposal provides funds to local organizations to increase access to healthy food in neighborhoods with higher food insecurity rates.

Resources will be used to support food pantries, pop-up markets, farmers markets, food vouchers, or refrigerated food distribution.

Proposed Funding: \$500,000

4 WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON TRADES

This proposal provides grants to expand vocational training in trades such as HVAC, automotive, computer skills, and cooking, with a focus on low-income residents.

The initiative creates pathways to better-paying jobs while addressing the community's need for skilled workers.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000



2 IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

This proposal provides grant funding for immigration legal services including consultations, application assistance, and legal representation for immigrants facing detention and deportation.

This initiative will prioritize detained immigrants, those at heightened risk of detention, and immigrant youth.

Proposed Funding: \$400,000



6 YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

This proposal provides financial literacy workshops delivered at youth job sites, local events, and colleges for young people ages 14-24.

Sessions cover banking, credit, investing, budgeting, and career readiness, empowering youth to build financial skills and grow their wealth.

Proposed Funding: \$250,000

7 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE PROGRAM

This proposal offers technical assistance in relevant subject matter areas to support small business entrepreneurship across Boston.

The goal is to create greater financial stability and capacity for small business, which will ultimately benefit communities citywide. Resources will be made available through avenues that will attempt to target entrepreneurs who have not benefited from City supports and resources in the past.

Proposed Funding: \$250,000

10 VOICES OF RECOVERY: SOBRIETY SUPPORTS AND STORYTELLING PILOT

This proposal facilitates a pilot program providing recovery supports in a dedicated shelter space for guests experiencing homelessness who are interested in sobriety.

As an option, the Recovery Specialist will work with guests to develop storytelling workshops that connect with local high school students, reducing stigma about homelessness and addiction. Participating schools will be encouraged to donate essential items to the shelters.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

13 SENIOR CAREGIVER RESOURCES & TRAINING PROGRAMS

This proposal provides grants to equip caregivers with hands-on training, practical tools, education, respite, and support services to provide care for older family members.

The initiative offers multilingual information and training that reflect diverse needs across gender, age, cultural background, and health conditions.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

8 COMMUNITY LITTER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

This proposal establishes a tool-lending and community event grant program enabling residents and organizations to host neighborhood cleanups. These events will incorporate community-building activities like music, art, and athletics.

Leveraging the Office of Civic Organizing's existing Neighborhood Cleanup and Love Your Block infrastructure, participating groups will receive the necessary tools and resources to host cleanup activities.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

11 HEALING THROUGH ART: CREATIVE PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS

This proposal brings culturally rooted artists into neighborhood spaces to lead arts workshops centered on healing and wellness.

The program offers diverse creative practices including singing, theater, painting, and music that honor different cultural traditions and pathways to wellness, expanding equitable access to mental health support.

Workshops will be hosted in community settings such as parks, libraries, community centers, and places of worship.

Proposed Funding: \$300,000

9 GREEN MY BLOCK

This proposal transforms underutilized city-owned spaces along roadways and sidewalks through community-led greening initiatives. The program provides contracting opportunities and resources for residents, schools, community groups and organizations to adopt, beautify, and maintain local spaces with native plantings.

This initiative will prioritize heat-vulnerable locations while remaining accessible to all neighborhoods.

Proposed Funding: \$100,000

12 BRIDGING THE GAP: ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING STABILITY

This proposal establishes a flexible funding pool to help Boston residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness to secure or maintain housing.

Through grants to nonprofit organizations, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and those with intersecting marginalized identities would be able to receive one-time financial assistance for housing-related costs such as storage fees, arrears, moving costs, start-up expenses, and basic furniture.

Proposed Funding: \$200,000

Graphics:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fisDjS1dPelkCkVGfF0sPRrHHeLudJhz>



IT'S TIME TO PUT
YOUR → **IDEAS**
INTO ACTION!

VOTE FOR THE PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE
THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY:

1. VISIT BOSTON.GOV/PARTICIPATE
2. GET TO KNOW THE IDEAS
3. VOTE FOR UP TO 5 PROJECTS!

Your Ideas, Your City, Your Vote.

IDEAS
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