



City of Bellevue 2027–2028 Budget

Bellevue is growing, and the city is embracing that momentum with thoughtful planning for the future while continuing to meet the needs of today's community. The 2027–2028 budget preserves the essential services people rely on now and invests in the infrastructure and programs that will support a thriving, vibrant Bellevue for years to come.

What is the City Budget?

Bellevue's budget is how the city turns community priorities into services, programs and infrastructure. Developed every two years, the budget helps answer three core questions:

- What does the community need?
- What can the city afford?
- Where can public resources provide the greatest community benefit?

What guides budget decisions?

The City Council's vision is supported through six strategic target areas and objectives, which guide Bellevue's policy and budget decisions.

BellevueWA.gov/city-government/city-council/council-vision

**Bellevue welcomes the world.
Our diversity is our strength.
We embrace the future while
respecting our past.**

Shaping the 2027-2028 Budget

Bellevue's economy remains a regional strength, and city revenues are forecast to remain relatively stable. However, inflation, higher operating costs for services and reduced consumer confidence are creating uncertainty in the local economic outlook. As a result, cost of living and affordability remain important community concerns, requiring the city to balance reliable services with impacts on residents, businesses and ratepayers.

For 2027–2028, the city looked closely at programs and services for efficiency, effectiveness and long-term sustainability. As investments are considered, the city prioritizes meeting existing commitments and maintaining current services and infrastructure, followed by investments that prepare Bellevue for future needs and growth before considering new services or programs.

Bellevue pairs long-term comprehensive budget reviews (once every 10 years) with incremental cycles (every two years between comprehensive reviews). Incremental cycles accept the base services and programs set in a comprehensive review and then adjust as needed. The 2027–2028 budget is an incremental cycle, so the city is maintaining the existing service baseline and focusing its review on targeted adjustments, accounting for 2-3% of the total budget. Bellevue's next comprehensive budget review will begin in 2032.



Rendering of Grand Connection

How Bellevue Approaches Budget Resources

For the 2027–2028 budget, Bellevue is taking a stability-focused approach to investments above the base services and programs, in addition to some reallocation of funds, looking first at how existing resources could be used more effectively before adding new commitments. This means sustaining core services, repurposing or realigning funding as needs changed, and making targeted investments where additional resources are needed.

Reallocate Existing

- 2027–2028: approx. \$30.5M
- Reallocate existing resources to stabilize services and meet a few emerging priorities
- Rates and fees backed proposals are tracked separately

Reduce Costs

- 2027–2028: approx. \$1.8M
- Make deliberate adjustments to free up resources

Activate Reserves

- 2027–2028: approx. \$31.5M
- Put existing reserves to strategic use for current and planned future needs

Accelerate Transportation

- Present an opportunity to invest more in transportation needs

Grand Connection Crossing

A landmark project to create a stronger connection between downtown Bellevue and surrounding neighborhoods, enhancing mobility, creating inspiring public spaces, and strengthening the city's commitment to livability and accessibility.

2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Bellevue's six-year Capital Improvement Program plans major infrastructure investments that will serve the community for years to come. During this budget process, the city adopted a new structure to organize capital investments into three levels: portfolios, programs and projects. This structure provides a consistent presentation of capital investments across the city and helps show how individual projects connect to broader investment strategies. BellevueWA.gov/cip

Transportation

Bellevue is planning for approximately 35,000 additional homes and 70,000 additional jobs by 2044, as envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan. That growth will place greater demands on the transportation system, making targeted investments today important to building the infrastructure needed for the future.

As part of this effort, City Council will consider a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) as a potential dedicated funding source for transportation. If approved, a TBD could help keep infrastructure investments ahead of growth, support regional transit and improve mobility across Bellevue's neighborhoods.

2027-2028 Operating Budget

The city's operating budget supports services and programs that keep Bellevue safe, connected, vibrant, equitable and thriving. The following highlights focus on key adjustments in the 2027–2028 budget, organized by council's six strategic target areas. Read the full budget book for a comprehensive list of investments.

High-Performance Government



Bellevue's well-managed government is foundational to the success of the Council's Vision and City services.

- Meet the growing need for accessibility of our digital experience
- Advance Civic Campus planning
- Strengthen cybersecurity
- Build internal service capacity to keep pace with organizational growth

Vibrant Economy



Bellevue is a city where innovation thrives.

- Support KidsQuest relocation and expansion
- Make StartUp 425, Keep Bellevue Beautiful, and Small Business Accelerator Core Services
- Expand investment in innovation, emerging technologies, and partnerships

Safe & Efficient Transportation System



Transportation is sustainable, reliable and predictable. Mode choices are abundant, clean and safe.

- Expand Speed Safety program
- Curb management
- 81 Projects that improve walkability in the next 10 years

High Quality Built & Natural Environment



Bellevue is a livable city with world-class places to live, work, play and learn.

- Prepare for expiring Parks Levies in 6-year planning horizon
- Deliver 6 new or enhanced Parks
- Begin the update of City Hall building infrastructure
- Improve the speed and delivery of permitting services

Community Safety & Health



All people feel safe, valued and welcome.

- Invest in Fire Station planning and set aside funds for Fire Station 6 replacement
- Sustain support for CALEA accreditation
- Expand probation staffing
- Advance utility system planning and affordability
- Innovative partnership to support clean buildings with a revolving loan fund

Thriving People & Communities



Bellevue is an equitable and caring community where everyone can thrive and belong.

- Bellevue Promise Program
- Expanding Utilities Bill Assistance program
- Stabilize capacity for homelessness and affordable housing and probation
- Neighborhood Enhancement Program

Budget at a Glance

2027-2028 Total Revenue
\$2.2 billion

2027-2028 Total Operating Budget
\$1.8 Billion

2027-2032 Capital Improvement
Program Budget
\$1.3 billion

Equity in Budgeting

With diversity, equity and inclusion adopted as Bellevue's sixth core value in 2024, equity is woven into how the city plans and delivers services. In December 2025, the City Council adopted Diversity Advantage Plan 2035, a 10-year plan establishing long-term equity objectives for the city.

For this budget cycle, every department developed a Short-Term Equity Plan (STEP) identifying actions it will prioritize through 2028. Those plans helped inform 2027–2028 budget requests. Some actions require additional funding, while many can be advanced by making thoughtful use of existing resources.

BellevueWA.gov/dap-2035

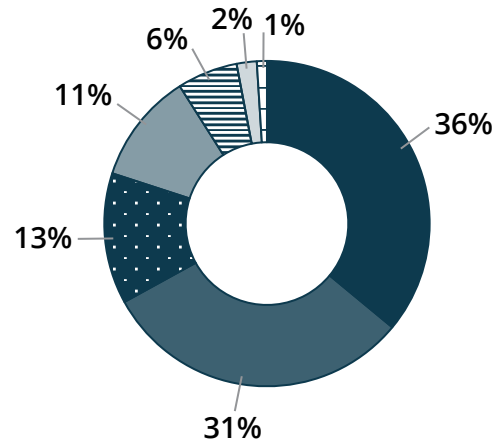
Your Voice Matters

Community input is an important part of Bellevue's budget process. The city listens to community priorities throughout city planning and program engagement efforts, which helps inform the proposed budget presented to the city council.



Learn more about the city's budget public involvement process:
BellevueWA.gov/budget

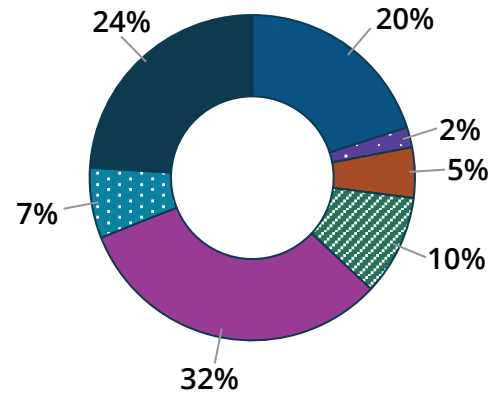
2027-2028 Total Revenue by Source & Type



- Taxes
- Charges for goods/services
- Other finance sources
- Misc. revenues
- Intergov. revenues
- Licenses/permits
- *Other

**Other includes Fines, Forfeits, Enterprise Gain and Other Income.*

2027-2028 Operating Budget by STA



- High Performance Government
- Vibrant Economy
- Safe & Efficient Transportation System
- High Quality Built & Natural Environment
- Community Safety & Health
- Thriving People & Communities
- *Other

**Other includes Interfunds, Debt Services, Reserves and Contingencies.*

