



## Stakeholder Summary Public Outreach for the 2019-2020 Budget

### Public Engagement

The 2019-2020 budget process includes options for public engagement. Below is a status of each engagement option:

**Budget Process Public Involvement Website** is available at: <https://bellevuewa.gov/budget>  
The website provides links and contact information for anyone interested in further information.

### Statistically Valid Budget and Performance Surveys

- **Budget Survey:**  
<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/finance/budget-and-performance/performance-reports/budget-surveys-report/>  
In preparation for the new budget, the city conducted a budget survey. The survey was designed to provide a statistically valid tool to enhance the city's knowledge of residents' perceptions about the city and to better understand community priorities and expectations regarding city services. This survey has been conducted every other year since 1998.
- **Performance Survey:**  
<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/finance/budget-and-performance/performance-reports/performance-measures-survey/>  
The city conducts a performance survey annually to measure the performance of the city. The methodology for the Performance Survey is the same as in the Budget Survey.
- **Business Survey:**  
<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/finance/budget-and-performance/performance-reports/business-survey/>  
The city conducted the business survey for the first time in 2015. The survey is conducted every other year with the 2017 survey as the most recent available. The survey addresses Bellevue's key metrics, attitudes about operating and owning a business, starting a business, and questions relating to taxation.

### Public Hearings in June, August and November

- The City Council holds three public hearings on the 2019-2020 budget to provide stakeholders multiple opportunities to officially comment on the operating and capital budgets. Two public hearings, one in June and the other in August, are held prior to the submission of the Preliminary Budget to the council and offer residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to let the council know what issues are important to them. The third hearing, in November after the council receives the Preliminary Budget, provides interested parties the chance to address new budget proposals and comment on significant budget issues.



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- Summaries of the June, August, and November public hearings are presented in this section. Additional emails, phone calls, and communications may have been received by councilmembers over the course of 2018.

### **Public comment** at all City Council meetings

- The public is welcomed and encouraged to speak during public comment at all regular City Council meetings. The council agendas are posted on the council website.

### **Boards and Commissions:** [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards\\_commissions.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards_commissions.htm)

- Five city boards and commissions provide input on the budget process.
  - Transportation Commission: provides funding recommendations on the Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget.
  - Environmental Services Commission: provides funding recommendations on both the operating and CIP Utilities budgets as well as rate recommendations.
  - Parks and Community Services Board: provides funding recommendations on the CIP budget.
  - Human Services Commission: provides funding recommendations on allocations to human services (City/CDBG) agencies.
  - Arts Commission: provides funding recommendations on arts acquisitions as well as allocations to arts groups.

### **E-mail/Contact Councilmembers:** [Council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Council@bellevuewa.gov)

Comments to the council may be emailed to the address above or submitted by phone to the Council Office at 452-452-7810 (to leave message).

### **E-mail/Contact Finance and Asset Management:** [FinanceDepartment@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FinanceDepartment@bellevuewa.gov)

- **Presentations to Neighborhood Groups, Business Associations and Others**  
The Finance and Asset Management Department will give presentations about the budget upon request to any group. Please contact us (425-452-5281) or at the email above.
- **Information Provided Upon Request**  
Finally, the Finance and Asset Management Department responds to any communication received regarding the budget process. Please contact us (425-452-5281 or at the email above).



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### PUBLIC HEARINGS TESTIMONY (paraphrased)

June 4, 2018 (sources: adopted Council Meeting Minutes, summarized letters):

City Clerk Kyle Stannert noted that three emails received over the weekend with comments regarding the budget were included in the council's desk packet this evening.

The following individuals came forward to comment:

1. Pamela Johnston thanked the council for its support of high-quality buildable and natural environments. She wants to ensure there is transparency and collaboration in the neighborhood planning efforts. She encouraged moving forward with activities to preserve and expand the tree canopy. She noted the need for park development in the Bridle Trails and Newport Hills areas. Ms. Johnston encouraged the council to provide adequate funds for staff to engage in public outreach. She would like to see all public meetings listed on the calendar. She asked the city to consider budgeting additional staff support for the council.

2. Court Olson urged the city to bolster its commitment to the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) initiatives. He encouraged the council and city staff to engage outside expertise to help create a thorough plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He suggested coordinating with other cities to fund the appropriate consultant.

The following written comments were received as noted below in summarized form. Additional emails, phone calls, and communications may have been received by councilmembers over the course of 2018.

1. Jennifer Keller submitted a request for the council to recognize, through allocations in the budget, the importance of creating a strong Climate Action plan for our city.

August 6, 2018 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes):

The following individuals came forward to comment:

1. William Bain, a resident of Bellevue Towers and the CEO of a software company in Downtown Bellevue, asked the council to allocate funds to create a Climate Action Plan for Bellevue. He acknowledged there are competing priorities. However, he said the cost of waiting is that the negative impacts of climate change cannot be reversed. He expressed concern that the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) will not meet its targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.



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2. Gary Bloxham noted that he has been a Wilburton resident since 1974. He expressed concern that Bellevue is not meeting its K4C goals. He encouraged the city to create a Climate Action Plan. He said that 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are generated by cities.

3. Bill Westre commented on Bellevue's diversity, global perspective, sister cities around the world, and concern about greenhouse gas emissions. He said the United States is one of the highest producers of emissions in the world. He encouraged the city to create a Climate Action Plan.

4. Jennifer Keller, a Lake Hills resident, urged the city to place a high priority on allocating funds to develop a Climate Action Plan. She thanked the city for its K4C participation. She noted concerns about the increasing frequency of forest fires.

5. Pamela Johnston said she would like the budget to provide greater opportunities for public engagement. She expressed support for the development of parks in Bridle Trails and Newport Hills. She asked about the sources and purposes for arts funding. She encouraged the city to make online information accessible to individuals with physical challenges. She encouraged transparency in the city's processes. She said it would be helpful to make information related to an upcoming City Council meeting available to the public well in advance of the meeting. She encouraged a citywide focus on the tree canopy. She thanked the council for all they do and suggested that perhaps the council needs more staffing.

6. David Schwartz commended Bellevue's commitment to the K4C. He expressed concern that Bellevue and the K4C will not meet the greenhouse gas emissions goals. He urged the council to create a Climate Action plan. He offered to provide the names of consultants with expertise in this area. He said that Bellevue needs to show leadership on this issue.

7. David Osmer expressed concerns regarding global warming and encouraged the city to create a Climate Action Plan.

8. Don Marsh expressed support for developing a Climate Action Plan and commented on the issue of electrical reliability in Bellevue. He suggested, based on Puget Sound Energy's data, that it would be most beneficial to underground power lines along Newport Way. He suggested undergrounding the lines in coordination with the sidewalk project. He said PSE currently plans to move the lines to the other side of the street. However, that would be difficult, and residents do not want PSE to remove trees. Mr. Marsh asked the city to explore the option of undergrounding power lines on Newport Way.

9. Matt Jack, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), and Chris Johnson, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, said that both organizations have been working to review the city's budget materials and to develop comments and input for the council. The joint task force will submit formal comments this fall. Mr. Johnson noted support for Fire Station 10 and for the unfunded LEOFF I (Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter) pension obligation.



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10. Kristi Weir urged the council to allocate funds for developing a Climate Action Plan.
11. Claire Wolfman noted examples of global warming (e.g., forest fires) and urged the council to create a Climate Action Plan.
12. Peter Marshall asked the council to create a Climate Action Plan. He said the K4C will not reach its greenhouse gas emissions targets. He said local communities need to aggressively address the issue in the absence of federal attention to the problem.
13. Court Olson, representing the Cascade Green Building Council, commented on green building materials and practices. He asked the council to allocate \$250,000 to create a Climate Action Plan.
14. Heidi Dean expressed support for the speakers' comments on climate change. She encouraged the council to support the development of park property in the Newport Hills area. She said the residents lost their former community gathering space, and the shopping center will no longer allow them to use space there. She said the community does not want to lose the opportunity to get together with neighbors.
15. Stephanie Walter encouraged the council to provide funding for community organizations and events that strengthen neighborhoods. She expressed concern that the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association (LHNA) was charged a fee for its annual picnic for the first time this year. She noted that knowing neighbors improves public safety and security.

November 19, 2019 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes):

1. Sue Bah representing the Board of Directors of Eastside Pathways wanted to make sure that all stakeholders work together and to thank the City for the ongoing partnership and support.
2. Pamela Johnston spoke about building community for unity, shaping a common vision for neighborhoods, and mention that Bridle Trails Park is a great place.
3. Khaze Shariff says thank you for investment in Human Services and requested that MCRC be considered in the budget with \$50,000 from the contingency fund.
4. Norm Hanson requested that property be looked at for a neighborhood park and that the City supports parks.
5. Chris Johnson from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce talked about supporting efforts on healthcare cost growth, agreed with the fire inspection fee. He further talked about the Bellevue Way Project funding and a TFP item.
6. Victoria Shae requested a detailed and comprehensive plan to tackle climate change and said thank you for the ESI budget allocation.



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7. Gargee Penetula said thank you for the budget allocation to ESI and wanted the funds directed to climate change.
8. Jennifer Keller said thank you for participating in K4C and funding ESI. Wanted to make sure that a majority of the ESI budget goes toward climate action and climate action planning.
9. Eric Hanson wanted to say thank you for signing onto K4C and for the budget allocation to ESI. Also wanted to have focus put onto emissions, commercial energy, and residential buildings. Please drive electric vehicles.
10. Court Olsen said thank you for the budget allocation.
11. Jeff Tiel asks if investment in ESI to achieve K4C targets
12. Marlene Mayer says climate issues can happen and thank you for what you are doing in this area.
13. Curt Allred said thank you for signing up for K4C and the ESI budget. Climate is the major issue for humanity.

Additional emails, phone calls, and communications may have been received by councilmembers over the course of 2018.

### **2018 ANNUAL RESIDENTS PERFORMANCE SURVEY DATA**

#### **Background**

2018 marks the 21<sup>st</sup> Performance Measures Survey conducted by the City of Bellevue. Survey outreach and deployment were offered in four additional languages: Chinese, Korean, Russian and Spanish.

The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percent at a 95% confidence level, which means that if the city surveyed 10 random residents, 95% of the time the results would be within 4.1% of this year's survey response. A total of 564 residents responded to the survey via either the internet or phone.

As a reminder, the city conducts an annual performance survey to collect statistically reliable data that represents all Bellevue residents. Findings help the city to understand how residents perceive city services and to make service delivery improvements accordingly.

#### **Summary 2018 Performance Survey Key Metrics**



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- Bellevue maintains a high quality of life – more than nine out of ten residents believe that the overall quality of life in Bellevue “exceeds” or “greatly exceeds” their expectations. This result has remained relatively steady for the past several years.
- City services are high quality – almost 90 percent of Bellevue residents believe the overall quality of city services “exceeds” or “greatly exceeds” their expectations. This result is similar to previous years.
- More than seven out of ten residents say they are getting value from their tax dollar. Ratings for the Value of Services have decreased between 2017 and 2018.
- Almost 70 percent of respondents say the city is headed in the right direction. The top first response reasons given for why the city is headed in the right direction are development/growth, public transportation, and politicians/leadership/City Council/government. The top first response reasons for the city is headed in the wrong direction are cost of living/expensive/taxes, congestion/crowding/traffic/overbuilding, and development/growth.
- Residents enjoy living in Bellevue – nearly all (95 percent) of those surveyed say the city is a good to excellent place to live. This is similar to prior years. In addition, 94 percent of respondents rate their neighborhood as a good to excellent place to live, which is also similar to years past.

#### **Methodology**

The survey is designed to provide a statistically valid tool at a 95% confidence level. Quotas were used to ensure a representative sample of Bellevue residents living in single-family and multifamily dwellings. Quotas were also set to ensure a representative sample of age ranges (18-34, 35-54, 55+) and gender (male, female). Samples were randomly drawn from a random listing of households in Bellevue. Surveys were conducted online, by landline telephone, and by cell phone, and were deployed from February 16 to March 11, 2018.



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