



CITY OF BELLEVUE  
**2021-2022 ADOPTED BUDGET**  
**2021-2027 CAPITAL INVESTMENT**  
**PROGRAM PLAN**

Council Action: December 2020 | Publish Date: April 2021





For complete Budget Summary information:  
**[BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)**



# City of Bellevue, Washington

## Acknowledgements

### 2021-2022 Adopted Biennial Budget

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	Development Services Department
	Finance & Asset Management Department
	Fire Department
	Human Resources Department
	Information Technology Department
	Parks & Community Services Department
	Police Department
	Transportation Department
	Utilities Department



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*Distinguished  
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Award*

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**City of Bellevue  
Washington**

For the Biennium Beginning

**January 1, 2019**

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director



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Oct. 19, 2020

Dear Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and members of the Council:

This budget is dedicated to the untold number of heroes providing critical services to ensure we are safe and healthy during these incredibly challenging times. Tonight, I am transmitting my Preliminary Budget to the City Council. The budget represents our proposed plan for the next two years. It totals \$1.7 billion and is balanced across all funds. The budget also reflects the changed and changing times we are experiencing and will continue to experience well into 2021.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have upended all our lives. As the pandemic took hold and the “stay home, stay healthy” order was issued, Bellevue took measures to cut expenditures; many of them one-time, short-term fixes. This work will need to continue. Our primary focus in the 2021-2022 budget is to provide funds to continue to deliver critical services—public safety, public health, human services to protect our most vulnerable populations in our rapidly growing community, basic infrastructure and funding to prepare us to meet the challenges of the significant growth coming to our city.

The \$1.7 billion biennial budget includes \$474 million in the general fund, \$212 million in internal service and other operating funds, \$457 million in enterprise funds, \$74 million in special purpose expenditures (such as grants and donations among others), and \$523 million for the 2021-2022 portion of the general and utilities capital investment program.

This budget offers a stark contrast to our last cycle. The 2021-2022 budget was developed in the midst of historically challenging and unpredictable economic and human impacts due the COVID-19 pandemic. In prior years, the City worked to address an impending structural imbalance where expenditures will exceed revenues. We still need to continue working on that issue as well as dealing with the continued impacts of the pandemic. This budget creates a “bridge” to keep Bellevue on solid financial footing. Critical discussions and potentially difficult decisions will be necessary early next year and beyond as we learn more about and deal with the aftershocks of the pandemic and structural deficit.

This budget builds on Bellevue’s many strengths and assets—strong values, careful expansion to live within our means, and a commitment to asking residents, businesses and stakeholders how we are doing and what we can do differently to make their lives better. Based on community feedback and council direction, this proposal balances our history of fiscal responsibility with the pressing needs of our residents and businesses. This budget maintains our commitment to a safe and healthy community, strengthens human services to assist our most vulnerable, continues key infrastructure projects, and adapts to the needs and challenges of significant growth.

However, work to contain costs continues, and to date we’ve made solid progress. During the last budget cycle, we worked with employees on health care costs, and enacted a one percent property tax increase and a new fire inspection fee. This summer, leadership implemented a hiring freeze on non-essential positions, required all departments to spend four percent less, and significantly reduced City expenditures in some areas, such as the extended closures of community centers and other facilities.

## Highlights

- Maintains funding levels for critical public safety programs related to fire and police, while also continuing programs that advance equity and inclusion, build community connections, and help the most vulnerable, including individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Preserves funding for human services and includes increased Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. It keeps important mental health, community relations and outreach programs.
- Continues to fund and prioritize maintenance to ensure safety and the long-term investment of asset replacement. This includes minor aesthetic impacts.
- Adds funding for construction of congestion-relieving transportation projects in neighborhoods.
- Includes reductions to internal-facing operations which will impact the City's ability to be flexible as additional work arises. It reduces budgets for training, consultants and professional services to support specific initiatives.
- Incorporates additional revenues, including an annual one percent property tax adjustment for 2021-2022 and a modest increase to the Basic Life Support Fee.
- Continues to build the highest priority infrastructure needed to address growth and provides for new capital programs including Vision Zero, transportation grants, and economic development/public-private partnership implementation.
- Adjusts development services rates to account for growth and maintain cost recovery objectives.
- Enacts modest increases in utility rates to address aging infrastructure and wholesale cost increases.
- Largely preserves current staff, CIP work and transportation infrastructure projects, adds planning capacity, and invests in Bellevue's affordable housing initiatives to responsibly address the significant growth projected for the community.

## Community engagement

Ongoing feedback from our residents, businesses and stakeholders is a central component in developing this budget that responds to the needs of the community. This cycle's input came through digital public meetings, public outreach on City projects, direct communications, surveys and other tools. Additional opportunities for comment are scheduled prior to council's action to adopt the final budget, including a third public hearing on Nov. 23.

## Next steps

Over the next six weeks, staff will provide council with a comprehensive review of important areas of the budget through a series of public study session briefings.

It's important to note that this budget reflects our hard-working, dedicated employees who are committed to delivering quality services that make Bellevue "the city where you want to be." I want to

thank the staff of the Budget Office, the members of my office, the Leadership Team, department fiscal managers and all other employees who contributed to the development of the 2021-2022 budget process. Finally, I want to thank the federal government for funding the CARES Act. Bellevue has received millions of dollars in funds to support critical government services and help local businesses during these difficult times.

Despite the challenges, we are working together effectively to ensure Bellevue is ready for the future by making strategic fiscal decisions to adapt to our rapidly growing and diversifying population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Miyake", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brad Miyake  
City Manager



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## Changes from Preliminary Budget

The Council Adopted Budget adjusts the City Manager's Preliminary Budget by the following items.

The Council reviewed and discussed the budget throughout seven meetings beginning on October 19, 2020. On December 7, Council gave direction for the following adjustments to the City Manager's Preliminary Budget (in order of discussion on December 7), and on December 14, adopted each of the adjustments as part of their Council Adopted Budget. Full details of each item can be found in the December 7, 2020 packet, the following is paraphrased:

- Fire Training Admin Assistant, \$80,000 ongoing, funded through an increase in Basic Life Support Fees
  - The Council budget restores the fire training admin assistant position and associated net cost of \$80,000 through increasing Basic Life Support (BLS) Fee to \$950 to address expected high training demands. The BLS Transport Fee Ordinance authorizing this fee increase was adopted on December 14, 2020 to include this adjustment.
- Chamber/Downtown Association Support, \$40,000 one-time (\$20,000 each), funded through Council Contingency.
  - The Council budget enables both organizations to supplement the City's vital public services in promoting and advocating for our most vulnerable small businesses and nonprofits while also connecting them to federal, state, and local resources. Funding agreements with each organization will be required, and staff will return to Council for an update or approval if Council authorization is required.
- Communities of Color Coordinating (CCC) Team, \$150,000 one-time, funded through Council Contingency.
  - The Council budget allocates funding to implement a community-led effort to advance racial equity in the city and demonstrates the City's commitment to authentically build and strengthen community trust, understanding, and healing across the diverse communities the City serves.
- Cross-Cultural Feasibility Study, \$200,000 one-time, funded through Council Contingency.
  - The Council budget provides funding for the next phase of the Cross-Cultural Feasibility Study including strategic visioning and City master planning integration, partnership assessment, and financing. Included in this funding is community involvement.
- Enhanced Stakeholder Group/Public Engagement, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI), \$50,000 onetime, funded through Council Contingency.
  - The Council budget supports opportunities for utilizing the specialized expertise and knowledge of the stakeholder groups that have been heavily invested in and been very active in providing feedback during the creation of our City policies for the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. This funding will ensure the city has effective ways to gather input and ideas for best practices or other relevant technical ideas for consideration by staff for

## Changes from Preliminary Budget

inclusion in the implementation of given ESI policy objectives. (Note: The cost and scope were updated on December 7.)

- ESI Rapid Early Win Actions, \$200,000 one-time, funded through Council Contingency.
  - The Council budget adds additional funding to CIP project CD-46 ESI Implementation to capitalize on leveraging other funds that would forward the ESI plan.
  
- Bellevue College Connection, \$100,000 one-time, funded through Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion Levy.
  - The Council budget allocates \$100,000 within the existing CIP levy project PW-R-198 Neighborhood Congestion Management (Levy funding) to fund Bellevue College Connection to ensure continued work with Metro and Bellevue college on next steps.
  
- Vision Zero Timing of Budget in the CIP, adjusting project timing, no additional funding needed.
  - The Council budget adjusts the timing of CIP project PW-R-205: Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program to spread the total project cost of \$2.5M over seven years for \$357,000 per year. This allows for action to occur more consistently over time and start earlier throughout the CIP.
  
- Growth Corridor (Ped/ Bike Project), adjusting project timing, no additional funding needed.
  - The Council budget adjusts the timing of CIP project PW-W/B-85: Growth Corridor High Comfort Bicycle Network Implementation to allow a \$500,000 budget for this project each year for 2021-2023. This allows for design to occur more quickly and allows for seed funding to leverage for partnerships and potential grant funding.

See the summary table at the end of this section for appropriation details.

### Other Areas of Interest

In addition to the items above, the following remains for future staff work not related to a specific budget addition, yet was tracked by staff:

- In accordance with Council discussion on November 2, if additional funding becomes available for Human Services, staff will conduct another funding cycle, receiving new applications, in 2021. Potential funding sources would be from federal, state, or other funding options.
- One proposal was removed from consideration on December 7 related to a Senior Policy Professional. In lieu of adding staff at this time, the following work items were added to the objectives of the City Clerk's office and City Manager's office:
  - Assist City Council in the evaluation and continuous improvement of policymaking and legislative processes.
  - Evaluate approaches for increasing capacity to address Council policy questions and preliminary research on policy ideas.



## Changes from Preliminary Budget

- Following up from the Utilities presentation from November 9, staff added a specific objective within the adopted budget book to reflect the ongoing and existing work program regarding storm water technologies. The objective will identify opportunities for innovation to improve system reliability and stormwater management.

Summary of Council Adopted Budget Appropriation Changes from the City Manager Preliminary Budget			
CIP Fund	Appropriation Change		
Timing Changes	2021	2022	2021-2022 Total
<b>PW-R-205</b> Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program	\$357,143	\$357,143	\$714,286
<b>PW-W/B-85</b> Growth Corridor High Comfort Bicycle Network Implementation	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
<b>Council Contingency Changes</b>			
<b>G-118</b> Cross-Cultural Feasibility Study	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
<b>CD-46</b> ESI Implementation	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
<b>G-107</b> Council Contingency	(\$285,000)	(\$285,000)	(\$570,000)
<b>Total Appropriation Change</b>	<b>\$772,143</b>	<b>\$172,143</b>	<b>\$944,286</b>
General Fund	Appropriation Change		
Council Contingency Changes	2021	2022	2021-2022 Total
Chamber and Bellevue Downtown Association Support*	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Communities of Color Coordinating Team*	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
Enhanced Stakeholder Group/Public Engagement ESI*	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<b>Retained Positions</b>			
Fire Training Administrative Assistant	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$160,000
<b>Total Appropriation Change</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

\* Budget appropriation is moved from CIP to the General fund



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CITY OF BELLEVUE  
**2021-2022**  
**ADOPTED BUDGET**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council Action: December 2020 | Publish Date: 2021





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# INTRODUCTION

The city is in uncharted territory as the 2021-2022 Adopted Budget is being delivered. Stay-at-home measures, ordered to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, closed the economy. It has now begun to reopen.

It is in this environment that the 2021-2022 Adopted budget was prepared.

The Adopted Budget sets forth an operational and capital plan and includes resources needed to provide quality services to the residents and stakeholders of Bellevue, responds to revenue reduction due to COVID-19, addresses growing

urbanization with critical investments, and advances Council’s Priorities and Council’s vision to be “the city where you want to be”.

The city’s General Fund, which pays for public safety, transportation, parks, and other functions, continues to face fiscal challenges in the longer term. While the 2021-2022 budget is balanced and the ending fund balance will be maintained at 15 percent, the forecast continues to indicate that statutorily capped revenue growth will fail to keep pace with growth in expenditures needed for services to meet need from 2023 onward.

## 2021-2022 Budget Highlights

The 2021-2022 budget provides for the continued operations of the city; invests to meet the growing needs in the community; while balancing the fiscal constraints that COVID-19 as well as the long-term fiscal challenge facing the city.

Highlights:

- Continues to build highest priority infrastructure needed for the growth.
- Invests in a cultural liaison program, equity training, homelessness, and the creation of a Communities of Color Coordinating Team.
- Increases Human Services in response to additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.
- Invests resources to responsibly address growth of the city, specifically, supporting affordable housing initiatives.
- Balances financial uncertainty from COVID-19 with one-time strategies to allow time to fully understand the ongoing impacts.
- Evaluates and adjusts services considering COVID-19 social distancing requirements.
- Targets reductions in maintenance shifting from a more proactive response to a more reactive response.
- Includes reductions to internal-facing operations impacting the City’s ability to be flexible as additional work arises.
- Incorporates revenue options including an annual 1% property tax adjustment for 2021-2022. (\$9 annually for a \$1 million property).

- Adjusts Development Services rates to account for growth and maintain cost-recovery objectives.
- Increases Utility rates to address aging infrastructure and wholesale costs.

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT

- ◆ **2020 Population:** 148,100
- ◆ **2020 Daytime work force:** 243,100
- ◆ **2020 Minority population:** 50 percent
- ◆ **2020 Foreign-born population:** 41 percent
- ◆ **2021-2022 total budget:** \$1.74 billion (includes the first two years of the capital plans)
- ◆ **2021-2022 General Fund budget:** \$474 million
- ◆ **2021-2022 Enterprise Fund budget:** \$457 million
- ◆ **2021-2022 Internal Service & Other Operating Fund budget:** \$212 million
- ◆ **2021-2022 Special Purpose funds budget:** \$74 million
- ◆ **2021-2027 Total General Capital Investment Plan:** \$662 million
- ◆ **2021-2027 Total Utilities Capital Investment Plan:** \$236 million
- ◆ **Estimated total FTEs (2022):** 1,432.63
- ◆ **Local Sales Tax rate (2020):** 0.85 percent
- ◆ **Local B&O tax rate (2020):** 0.1496 percent
- ◆ **Local Projected property tax rate (2021):** \$0.90/\$1,000 AV (\$0.63/\$1,000 AV for the regular levy, \$0.27/\$1,000AV for all voted levies)

# BELLEVUE SERVICES AND COUNCIL VISION

The City of Bellevue is a full-service city, incorporated in 1953. Municipal services include police, fire, transportation, parks, community development, utilities, development services such as permitting and code compliance, plus all administrative functions including information technology, legal, finance, fleet, facilities, and city management, among others.

The budget is a policy document establishing an operational plan to provide continuing quality services and to set the strategy for the continued progress in meeting the city's capital infrastructure needs. In April 2014, Council established its vision for the city and established Strategic Target Areas to focus near term priorities. The city's budget is framed in these Strategic Target Areas, more broadly called outcomes, and all services are included within the outcomes – high performance government, economic development, transportation and mobility, high quality built and natural environment, Bellevue: great places where you want to be, regional leadership and influence, and achieving human potential.

In May 2018, Council updated the vision and established 25 three-year priorities for 2018-2020. These priorities are sorted by Strategic Target Area.

**Council Vision**

Bellevue 2035 - The City Where You Want to Be

Bellevue welcomes the world

Our diversity is our strength

We embrace the future while respecting our past

In addition to the many priorities that are already funded through existing work, the 2021-2022 Adopted Budget includes the following as examples:

## Strategic Target Areas Examples of Discrete Council Priority Items

**Achieving Human Potential**  
Homelessness Shelter Support



**High Performance Government**  
Parks Resource Management Facility  
Next Generation Financial System

**Regional Leadership and Influence**  
Economic Development Plan  
Implementation including public private partnership



**Economic Development**  
Pursue business retention and growth

**Bellevue: Great Places Where You Want to Be**  
Grand Connection – Early Implementation



**Transportation and Mobility**  
Neighborhood Congestion Management  
West Lake Sammamish Phase 3  
BelRed Transit Oriented Development  
Bellevue Way SE HOV Lane

**High Quality Built and Natural Environment**  
Maintained Affordable Housing Strategy  
Smart City Strategy  
Environmental Stewardship



# RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In February 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency across Washington in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. In the weeks following the declaration, stay-at-home measures were ordered to slow the spread of the virus. The measures and associated social distancing requirements resulted in an abrupt closure of the economy. Since then, the city has taken timely and robust actions to address COVID-19 impacts.

<b>STATE RESPONSE</b>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 19 - WASHINGTON STATE DECLARED AN EMERGENCY</b></p> <p><b>March 3</b> – Mayor declared civil emergency.</p> <p><b>March 11</b> – City halted water service disconnections and waived late fees for non-payment. Business customers may be eligible for payment plans.</p>
<b>CITY RESPONSE</b>	<p><b>March 19</b> – Created temporary curbside food pick-up zones in certain areas of downtown Bellevue with street parking and nearby restaurants and cafes.</p> <p><b>March 20</b> – Deferred first- and second-quarter local Business &amp; Occupation (B&amp;O) tax payments for small businesses with less than \$5M in gross receipts until October.</p>
<b>STATE RESPONSE</b>	<p><b>MARCH 23 - WASHINGTON STATE “STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY” ORDER ISSUED</b></p> <p><b>March 24</b> – City Council allocated \$450K for human services relief.</p>
<b>CITY RESPONSE</b>	<p><b>April 20</b> – City Council approved an ordinance to extend the expiration date of building permit applications and issued building permits for 180 days.</p> <p><b>May 18</b> – City Council allocated \$997K for human service relief.</p>
<b>STATE RESPONSE</b>	<p><b>MAY 29 - “SAFE START WASHINGTON” RELEASED</b></p> <p><b>JUNE 5 - KING COUNTY APPROVED FOR PHASE 1.5 REOPENING</b></p> <p><b>JUNE 19 - KING COUNTY APPROVED FOR PHASE 2 REOPENING</b></p>
<b>CITY RESPONSE</b>	<p><b>July 6</b> – City was awarded \$45K in grant funding from the Department of Justice to mitigate law enforcement costs associated with COVID-19.</p> <p><b>August 3</b> – City Council accepted WA Department of Commerce \$4.3 million CARES Act allocation; City Council accepted a \$222K from King County to be distributed to small businesses in Bellevue impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p><b>October</b> – City was informed of additional CARES Act Allocation of \$2.1M.</p> <p><b>Fall 2020</b> – Continued recovery planning underway including Return to Work, 2021-2022 Budget planning, business and community support.</p>

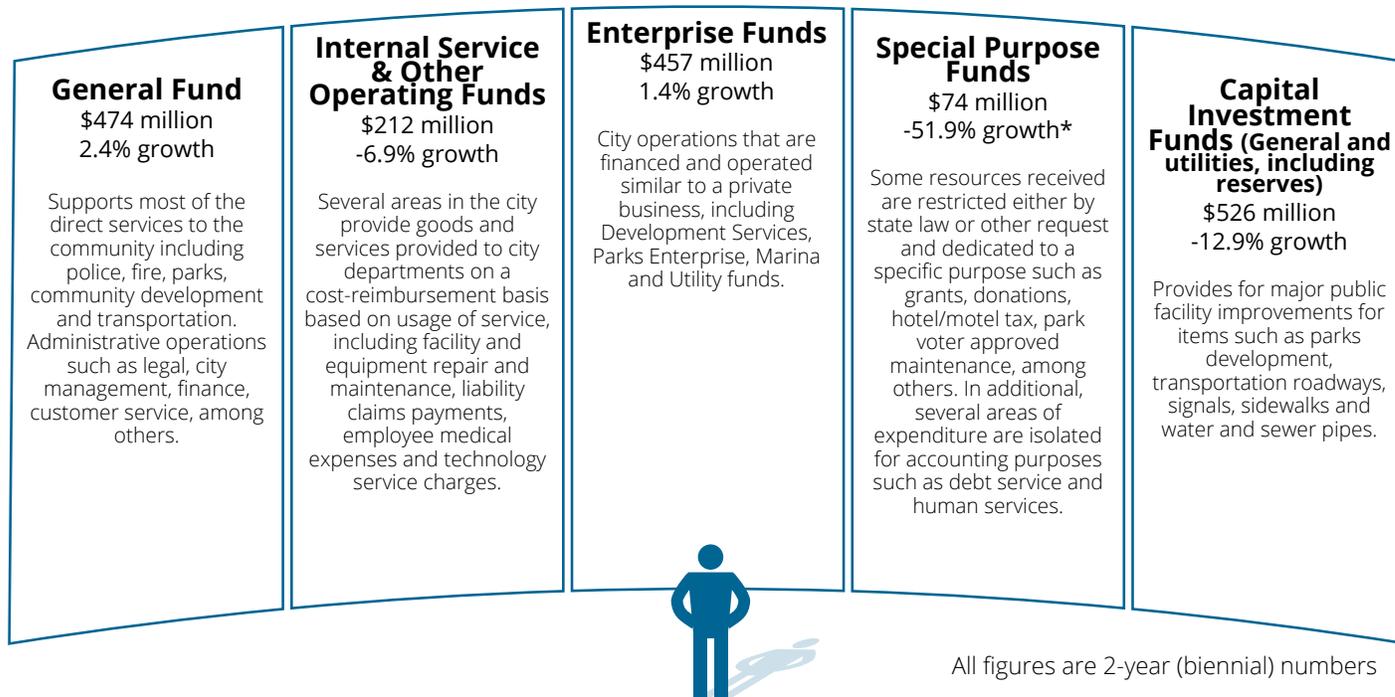
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## Financial Impact

- The closing of the economy has had a swift and substantial impact on the city’s finances, especially the sales and B&O taxes. Economic recovery projections largely depend on the predictability to control the virus, which is highly uncertain.
  - The general fund, which supports most direct operating services to the public, is impacted by \$16 million annually in 2021 and 2022.
  - Other funds including Utilities and the Capital Investment funds are also impacted to a lesser extent.

# BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2021-2022 Adopted Budget presented for Council's consideration totals \$1.7 billion. It is built on a complex set of differing funds based in generally accepted accounting principles. Funds are used to separate and account for differing types of resources. The city fund structure and related services are:



COVID-19 impacted primarily the General Fund, Utilities and Capital Investment funds. Further details are included in subsequent pages.

\*In 2020, a portion of the City's outstanding bond debt was consolidated and refinanced. The result was a one-time increase in 2020 appropriation in the special purpose fund which is not included in the 2021-2022 Adopted Budget, creating a large decrease across the bienniums.

## Budget guiding principles

Foremost among the Council's long-term budget policies is that quality service programs be offered by the City of Bellevue. Other guiding principles include:

- ◆ A focus on services that deliver outcomes important to the community and that are responsive and accessible to all;
- ◆ Position Bellevue to realize opportunities and enhance the city's image;
- ◆ An examination of the entire budget, not just incremental changes from the last budget;
- ◆ A commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sound business practice;
- ◆ A focus on citywide, not department, priorities;
- ◆ A long-range strategic approach to an affordable and sustainable budget; and
- ◆ If expenditure reductions are necessary, service elimination is preferable to poor or marginal quality programs.

# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## National Economy

In February 2020, the longest economic expansion in U.S. history was ended by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) related impact. The global and U.S. economy quickly fell into a deep recession due to a nationwide lockdown that shuttered most of the economy. The recovery of the economy remains uncertain; most economists believe it will likely take several years for economic growth to return to pre-COVID-19 levels. Federal Reserve Board of Governors also expects interest rates to remain near zero through at least 2023. The ongoing public health crisis will continue to weigh on economic activity, employment, and inflation in the near term, and poses considerable risks to the economic outlook over the medium term.

## Local Economy

Bellevue has seen strong economic growth in the years since the Great Recession. However, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown of the economy impacted Bellevue just as the rest of the nation. The 2021-2022 Adopted Budget assumes Sales and Business and Occupational (B&O) tax revenue, as well as other economically sensitive revenues & program fees recover through 2023.

## Bellevue Major Economic Indicators\*

- Bellevue reached its lowest unemployment since 2000 in February 2020 at 2.2%, the month before COVID-19 impacted. The unemployment rate increased to 5.1% in March and up to 10.8% in May. In March and April, Bellevue lost 16.6% or 13,707 jobs. (Source: Washington State Employment Security Department)
- As of the 2nd quarter of 2020, there are a total of 24 major projects in review, 23 projects under construction, and 14 projects in the pipeline with pre application conference held. (Source: City of Bellevue 2020 2nd Quarter Major Projects List)
- Home prices in the Puget Sound region and Bellevue are climbing up and showing a strong demand and purchasing power. (Source: Zillow Home Value Index (ZHVI) by Zillow Research)
- Colliers counts more than \$1.8 million square feet of new office space planned in the Bel-Red corridor and the Overlake area. (Source Puget Sound Business Journal)

\*Information in this section was current as of the printing of the Preliminary Budget in October 2020.

## Household income and home value comparison

	Household Income	Median house value	Unemployment Rate (BLS) as of August*
United States	\$61,937	\$256,663	8.5%
Washington State	\$74,073	\$443,350	8.4%
Bellevue	\$113,698	\$1,008,224	5.5%

Source: 2018 American Community Survey by US. Census Bureau, King County Assessor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Security Department of State of Washington.

## Risks

As the “new normal” is still being shaped by the COVID-19 impact, societal behaviors of consumers and the workforce are still to be fully understood. Potential risks to Bellevue include:

- The shift from brick and mortar stores to online shopping. The slow shift has been observed for years.
- The shift from in office work to telework could impact consumer spending habits and housing market, at a minimum.
- Social distancing has reduced travel and accomodation, and may take years to recover.

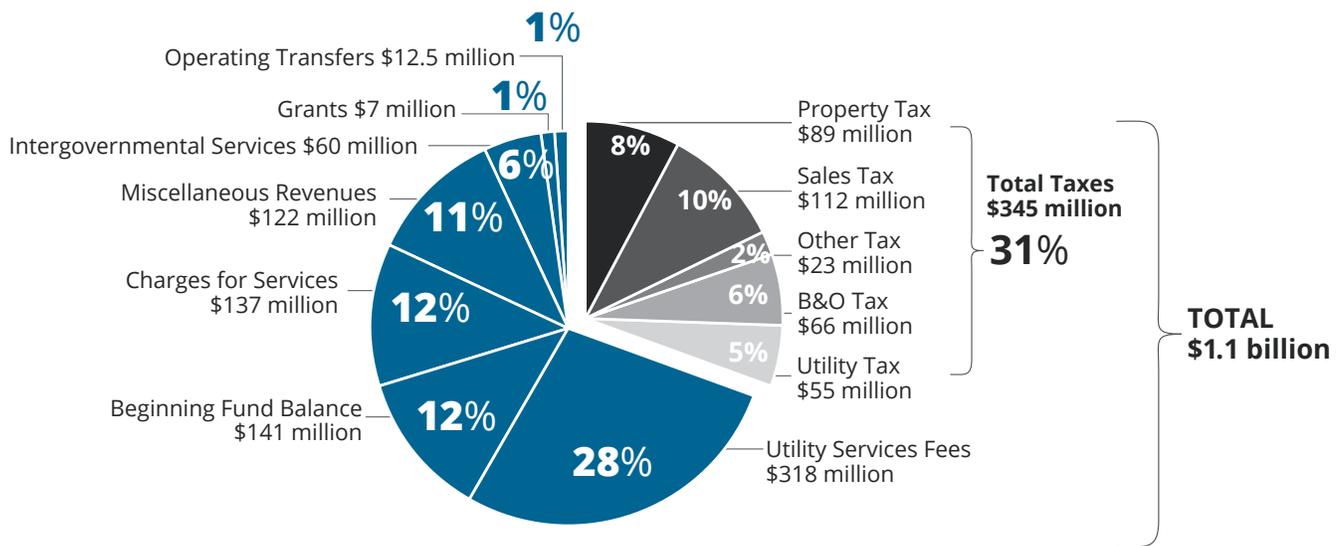
# TOTAL OPERATING RESOURCES

The city's Adopted Budget is funded through a diverse collection of resources. Many of the resources received are dedicated to a specific purpose and cannot be spent on non-related services or programs. For example, rate revenues received from water service can only be used for that purpose and cannot be used to pay for general services or other types of utility services. Similarly, funding received from Development Services permits can only be used for services related to delivering permits.

The City of Bellevue is a full service city which provides most municipal services directly, including police, fire, transportation, parks, legal, information technology, permitting, finance, facility, human resources, city planning, and utilities. The 2021-2022 Adopted Budget includes reduced resources from COVID-19, proposes a one percent property tax adjustment (\$9 annually for a \$1 million property) and an increase in Basic Life Support (BLS) transports. All other existing tax and revenue structures remain the same.

## 2021-2022 Total Operating Resources (in millions)

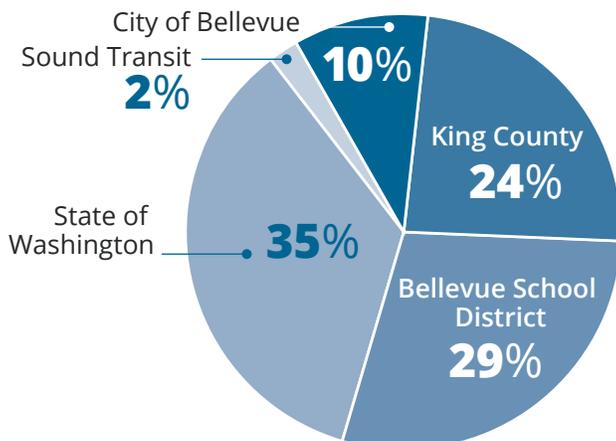
General Fund, Internal Service Funds, Other Operating Funds, and Enterprise Funds  
All figures are 2-year numbers



Property tax is collected and administered by King County. Sales tax is collected and administered by the State of Washington. Below is the distribution of these two major tax revenues.

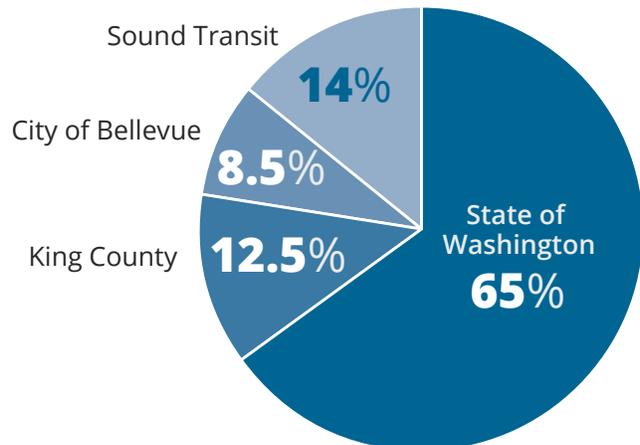
### 2020 Property Tax Distribution

Total Rate = \$8.70664/\$1000 AV



### 2020 Sales Tax Distribution

Total Rate = 10%



# GENERAL FUND AND FORECAST

## 2021-2022 FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The General Fund supports the majority of city operations including Police, Fire, Transportation, Parks and Community Services, Community Development, and various administrative functions such as City Council, City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, and Finance & Asset Management, among others.

Building from the 2019-2020 budget, the city continues to forecast a strong likelihood that expenditures in the General Fund will outpace revenues. See page 10 for further details. Prior to COVID-19, the city implemented several cost containment strategies so that reserves could be slowly drawn down to the Council 15% policy providing time to manage the known shortfall over time.

COVID-19 has required the city to shift strategies. The city needs to use reserves planned for the out-year shortfall now. The 2021 and 2022 Adopted budget requires \$16 million annually or \$32 million over the 2 years in reduced costs or increased revenues.

**Cost Containment plus One-time "Bridge" Structures plus Revenues minus Targeted Investments equals Reducing \$32 million (\$16 million annually)\***



### **Cost Containment: \$16 million biennial (\$8 million annually)**

- **Internal Operations** - Reduces spending for consultants, discretionary travel/training, temporary help, seasonal help, among others. These cost containment measures will limit the flexibility for internal operations to address surge workload, and in some cases, reduce existing workload.
- **Impact of COVID-19 on spending** - COVID-19 will create a new normal, though the city is working to fully understand the impacts, there are known areas now within city operations that can be adjusted.
- **Reduced maintenance** - The city will continue to fund and prioritize safety, and the long-term cost of asset replacement. The city will move toward a more reactive response to certain maintenance areas including tree removal and non-safety-based repairs in sidewalks and streetlights. Crews will respond to complaints, though perhaps not as quickly. Streetscapes and some parks will also see aesthetic impacts with less frequent mowing and weeding, some lawns will be allowed to brown out due to limited summer watering.



### **One-time "Bridge" Structures: \$15 million biennial (\$9 million in 2021, \$6 million 2022)**

- Delay major expenses (where possible) including the rethinking full opening of Fire Station 10 in 2023 (partial opening planned for 2022)
- Using reserves down to the 15% Council policy
- Temporary (2-year) adjustment fo the sales tax allocation from the General Capital Investment Program (CIP) fund to the General Fund to preserve core services



### **Revenues: \$3 million biennial (\$2 million annually)**

- 1% property tax annual adjustment for 2021 and 2022 (\$9 annually for a \$1 million property)
- Modest increase Basic Life Support (BLS) transport fee
- Ensure compliance with existing B&O Taxes

### **Targeted Investments: \$2 million biennial (\$1 million annually)**

- 24-hour homeless shelter
- Cultural liaison program, equity training, and Communities of Color Coordinating Team
- Support of affordable housing planning in response to growth

### **Reducing: \$32\* million (\$16 million annually) General Fund Gap**

\*may not foot due to rounding

# GENERAL FUND AND FORECAST

The current forecast shows in 2021-2022 the ending fund balance will be maintained at 15 percent, but continues to indicate that expenditures will outstrip revenues due to the imbalanced growth of revenues and expenditures starting from 2023. The principle drivers influencing this forecast are:

## Revenue Imbalance

The current structure of property tax allows the city revenue to grow by 1% plus new construction annually. This increase does not keep pace with expenditures. Conversely, the city's most economically volatile revenue streams, sales tax and business & occupation (B&O) tax, historically have grown around 5% annually. The growth of the sales tax and B&O tax do not counterbalance the lack of growth in property tax.

## Urbanization and Growth

The city continues to experience substantial growth that over time will require more complex and urbanized services. In addition to known costs for opening Fire Station 10, the out-year forecast includes a modest 0.3 percent growth in total expenditures to reflect our growing community and the needs it generates, and a modest personnel growth for the major business moves expected in 2023.

## Annexation Sales Tax Credit

The annexation sales tax credit, partially offsetting costs to provide services in the 2012 Eastgate annexation area, will expire in 2022. The result is reduced revenue to the city's General Fund of approximately \$1,000,000 annually.

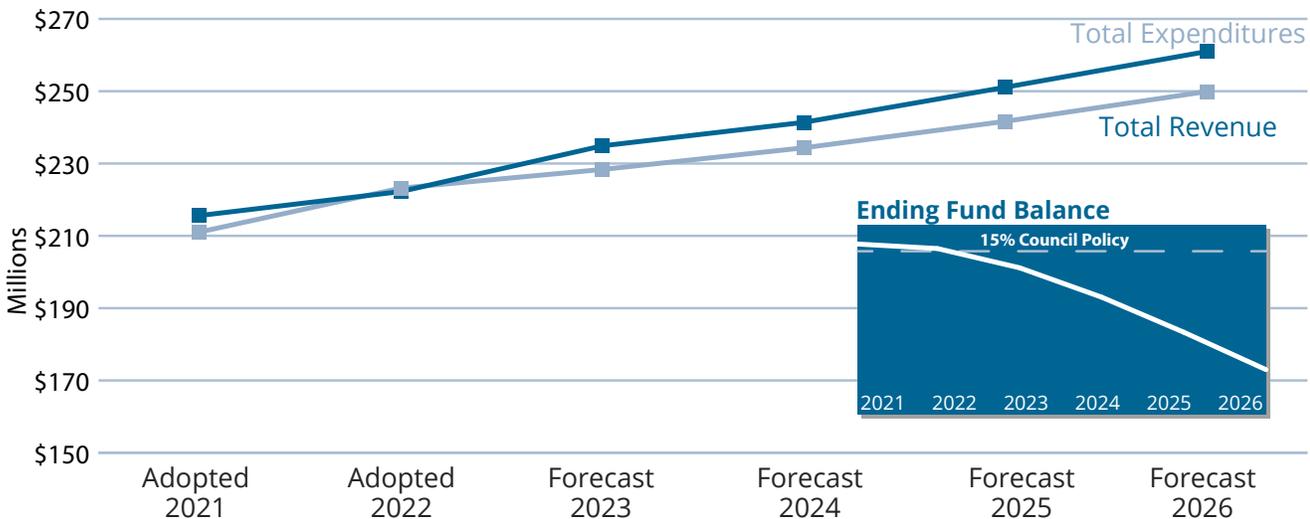
## Capital Investment Program (CIP) Maintenance and Operations

While major maintenance and renovation projects are contained within the CIP, minor maintenance is funded with operating funds. The city has a policy that addresses funding for minor maintenance on existing infrastructure. As the city builds new infrastructures, there are limited mechanisms to ensure additional maintenance and operations funding for those new facilities. As a result, the general fund maintenance costs grow at a higher rate without a funding source, which is putting additional pressure on the operating fund.

## Future Strategies

With COVID-19 requiring use of reserves in the current budget, future years budget discussions will require difficult choices that will impact service delivery or increase revenue in order to balance subsequent budgets. As the city learns more about the final impact of COVID-19 on fiscal resources, coupled with the long-term fiscal challenge, budget conversations will continue into the mid-biennium and beyond.

**General Fund Forecast**



# GENERAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The 2021-2027 Adopted General Capital Investment Program (CIP) plan prepares and serves as a catalyst for future development within a constrained budget. The resources available for the 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) plan are more constrained than prior CIP budgets primarily due to the COVID-19 related impact on revenue projections. In addition, the 2021-2022 years of the CIP temporarily adjust the sales tax allocation by reducing the amount to the CIP and increasing the general fund support to ensure continued operations.

The Adopted 2021-2027 CIP totals \$662 million, is balanced, and accomplishes and invests in the following:

- Ensures that the city meets its debt obligations.
- Invests in our community by maintaining and providing funding for affordable housing.
- Supports continued improvements in the neighborhood's initiatives like the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, the city's Public Art Program, Fire Station 5 rebuild, and increased the funding for the Neighborhood Congestion Management Project.
- Addresses the continued planned growth of the city including design for Bellevue Way HOV, and construction of Fire Station 10.
- Continues transportation infrastructure in the BelRed area with the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan projects.

- Ensures the continuation of the city's three voted levies: Neighborhood Transportation Congestion, Safety, and Connectivity (sidewalks, walkways, bike paths), Fire Facilities (Station 4, 6, and Warehouse improvements), and Parks (Airfield park).
- Funds the city's IT infrastructure including its next generation financial system and fosters Smart City initiatives throughout the city.
- Continues to fund projects that support the city's growth including the Comprehensive Plan Update and Downtown livability.
- Adds roadway improvements, and pedestrian bicycle improvements as part of the new Vision Zero project, 114th and 8th Street, and Growth Corridor Bicycle Network implementation.
- Continues the Council's long-standing policy to maintain what is currently built before building new infrastructure with programs such as the overlay and parks refurbishment, among others.
- Continues ongoing programming to support the community such as Environmental Stewardship Initiative, wetland monitoring, among others.
- Fulfills capital responsibilities for general government capital obligations including parks resource management facility, fuel tank replacements and in ground lifts at our Fleet operations.



# UTILITY RATES

The Adopted Budget includes the utility rate increases for 2021-2022, shown in the chart below, to enable Bellevue to continue delivery of high-quality drinking water, sewer, and storm and surface water services critical to our customers. Bellevue’s utility rates are competitive and will continue to be competitive in the future with the Council adopted financial policy to proactively plan and prepare for infrastructure replacement and renewal.

## COVID-19 Financial Impacts

COVID-19 is anticipated to impact utility revenues in the next biennium. Recognizing that COVID-19 is a dynamic situation, the Utilities Department’s goal is to address these impacts by containing costs that are within its control and using available reserves. To mitigate customer impacts, the Department is not proposing rate increases for local operations and have lowered planned contributions to the capital infrastructure renewal and replacement account in the 2021-2022 biennium.

## Key Rate Drivers

Operational efficiency and the prudent management of the utilities financial resources has been and will continue to be a priority. As a result of cost containment efforts, no rate increases are adopted to support local operations of the water, sewer, and storm and surface water utilities in this biennium.

Below are the key drivers for the 2021-2022 utility rate increases.

### ◆ Wholesale Costs Drive Rate Increases

The costs for wastewater treatment services and water supply are determined by King County and the Cascade Water Alliance, respectively, and are largely out of Bellevue’s control. These represent the single largest cost centers for Bellevue’s sewer and water utilities. Increases in these costs will result in a 2.2% increase in 2021 and a 1.8% increase in 2022 to Bellevue customers’ total utilities bill (shown in table below).

### ◆ Aging Infrastructure

Utilities owns, operates, and maintains over \$3.5 billion of infrastructure assets, with over 1,600 miles of pipeline to provide clean and safe drinking water; safely convey wastewater away from homes and businesses; and safely manage storm and surface water runoff to protect property and the environment. This infrastructure was primarily constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, and most of the assets are well past midlife.

As the infrastructure ages, it becomes less reliable and more failures occur. As a result, the cost to operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and replace infrastructure assets increases. System renewal is and will continue to be the most significant driver of the Utilities CIP. Rate increases are necessary to fund capital investments in order to sustain current levels of service to the community.



## Adopted Utility Rate Increase

	Water		Sewer		Storm & Surface Water		Total Utilities	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Wholesale	1.7%	0.9%	3.2%	3.0%	N/A	N/A	2.2%	1.8%
Local	1.8%	2.6%	0.9%	1.5%	3.5%	3.3%	1.6%	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

# DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FUND

There continues to be high interest in development in Bellevue with construction projects for office, retail and housing, however, the activity is expected to slow to more moderate levels as the economy struggles to open after the COVID-19 virus pandemic shutdown. Several large office and mixed-use developments currently in the plan review phase will move to construction with office development as the most active segment driven by Amazon's plans to bring 25,000 employees to Bellevue by 2025. Additional significant office projects are currently planned or under construction in all growth areas of the city, generating demand for both review and inspection services. Sound Transit's East Link light rail project is under construction along the entire alignment and is anticipated to spur long-term commercial and residential Transit-Oriented Development near light rails stations.

Single family applications are anticipated to remain steady in the early forecast period prompted by continued low interest rates, low inventory, and high demand for housing. While tenant improvement projects have declined due to construction restrictions of the pandemic and uncertainty of office space demand, permit

activity is anticipated to rebound, not only in the number of applications but in the value of projects represented by the applications.

The timing of the construction of these projects will play a role in the level of staffing needed in Development Services to support major project activity. Staffing levels for review, inspection, and support services increased in prior budgets to meet the growing demand for permit review and inspection services.

In the 2021-2022 budget, an additional 5.0 FTE are Adopted to be added in anticipation of continued demand for review/inspection work. Consistent with the long-range financial planning effort, changes in resource levels are continually assessed and modified to accommodate workload, maintain service levels, and maintain budget alignment. The budget includes rates and fee adjustments in line with inflation to meet its cost recovery objectives established by Council policy. Rates are adjusted annually to ensure that fees keep pace with the cost of providing services, and to sustain adequate resources to meet demand through the development cycle. The 2021 rates increase range from 1%-4%, driven by cost for personnel, overhead, and operational costs.



# HIGH PERFORMANCE CITY

The city has surveyed its residents for many years, and businesses since 2017. The surveys are important tools to ensure that businesses and residents can assess the effectiveness of city budgets and policies through the results of statistically valid surveys, conducted to ensure that the city hears from a cross-section of the population it serves.

Survey results show that people and businesses who call Bellevue home are very satisfied with their city, their neighborhoods, and delivery of municipal services. The following highlights are provided from the city's 2020 Performance Survey (which produces data for 2019) and 2019 Business Survey. More than 500 households were interviewed using a mixed-mode address-based methodology, via online, landline, or cell phone, and more than 900 businesses were interviewed via telephone and the web. The surveys, as well as other reports relating to Bellevue's budget and overall performance, can be found on the city's website at [BellevueWA.gov/performance](http://BellevueWA.gov/performance).

- Quality of life: For ninety-four percent of Bellevue residents, their quality of life exceeds their expectations with thirty-three percent

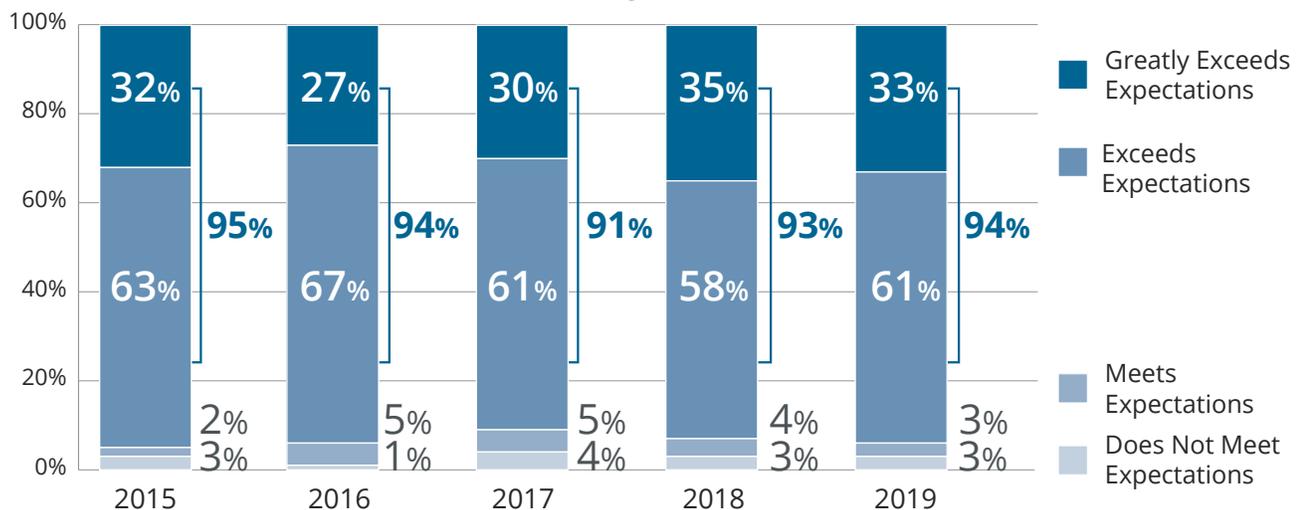
saying that the overall quality of life in Bellevue greatly exceeds their expectations.

- Great place to live: When asked whether Bellevue is the same as, better, or a worse place to live than other cities and towns, ninety-two percent of Bellevue residents believe Bellevue is a better or significantly better place to live than other cities and towns.

## ...most residents believe Bellevue is a better place to live

- Quality of city services: Eighty-nine percent of residents say the quality of city services exceeds or greatly exceeds their expectations.
- Bellevue Economy: At ninety percent, nearly all businesses surveyed feel that the strength of Bellevue's economy is better than that of other cities in the Puget Sound region.

**Performance Survey Results  
Overall Quality of Life in Bellevue**



# PRICE OF GOVERNMENT

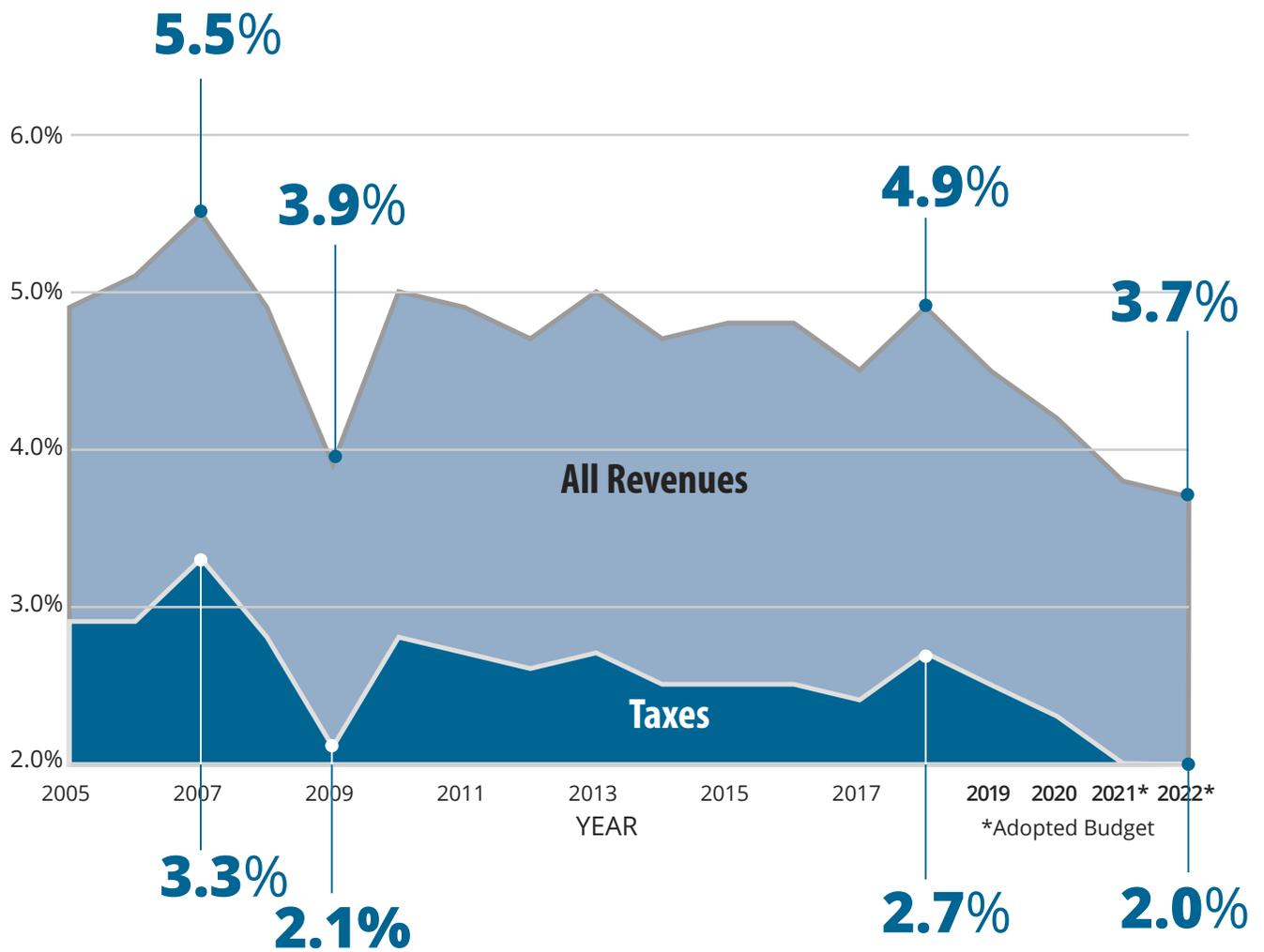
The price of government allows the city to compare what residents pay for services on an annual basis and see how that has changed over time. The “price” of government is defined as the sum of all taxes, fees and charges collected by the city, divided by the city’s total aggregate income<sup>1</sup>. Aggregate income is determined by multiplying the mean household income<sup>2</sup> by the number of households<sup>2</sup>.

goes to provide municipal services. Since the Great Recession, Bellevue’s price of government has continued to fall from 5 percent in 2010 to 3.7 percent in 2022. The decrease is mainly driven by three factors: population growth, income growth and the city’s conservative financial policies

The graph below states that for every household dollar earned in 2022, 3.7 percent or 3.7 cents

<sup>1</sup>Source: Osborne, D., & Hutchinson, P. (2004) The Price of Government. Basic Books  
<sup>2</sup>Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

**Price of Government**  
 City of Bellevue 2005-2022



A special thank you to the Leadership Team, Budget Office, department fiscal contacts, proposal writers, Graphics Services and all city employees who deliver the needed services to our community.



For complete Budget Summary information:  
**[BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)**



## About Bellevue

This chapter provides information about the City of Bellevue, its form of government, management structure, location, population, business climate, and community service partnerships. This information will aid the reader in understanding Bellevue's service programs. Budgetary values have more complete meaning when placed in this context.

### A. Form of Government and Organization

The City of Bellevue is a non-charter optional code city. It was incorporated on April 1, 1953. From its incorporation, Bellevue has maintained a Council-City Manager form of government. The City Manager is appointed by the Council as the chief executive officer of the City and is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all City affairs. Councilmembers are elected at large by Bellevue voters, and each serves a four-year term. Councilmembers are part-time officials who exercise the legislative power of the city and determine city policy. Bellevue has a seven-member Council, one of whom is elected by his or her fellow members to serve as Mayor for two years. The Mayor serves as chairperson of the Council, makes appointments to Council committees, and presides over weekly Council meetings. The Mayor has an equal vote with other Councilmembers.

The offices of City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Chief of Police are subordinate positions required by state statute. They are established by the Council and appointed by the City Manager. The City Clerk is responsible for keeping public records, and the City Treasurer is responsible for the receipt, disbursement, and custody of public monies. Though the City Clerk position, by statute, can include the duties of Treasurer, the City of Bellevue has established both positions, with the City Treasurer being defined as the Finance and Asset Management Director. All officers and/or department directors of the City are appointed by the City Manager.

The following pages contain several different organization and responsibility charts. These charts illustrate the City's management organization from different perspectives.

Figure 1-1 presents an organizational chart that shows the reporting relationships that currently exist.

Figure 1-2 presents a functional organization chart showing the principal activities for which each organization is responsible. These functional responsibilities are shown in detail in the department organization charts presented in the departmental chapters of the budget.

Figure 1-3 lists the current Councilmembers and department directors.



## About Bellevue

Figure 1-4 presents and describes the array of advisory boards and commissions.

Figure 1-5 presents and describes the community organizations that the City works with.

Figure 1-6 shows the age distribution of Bellevue's population from 1990 through 2018.

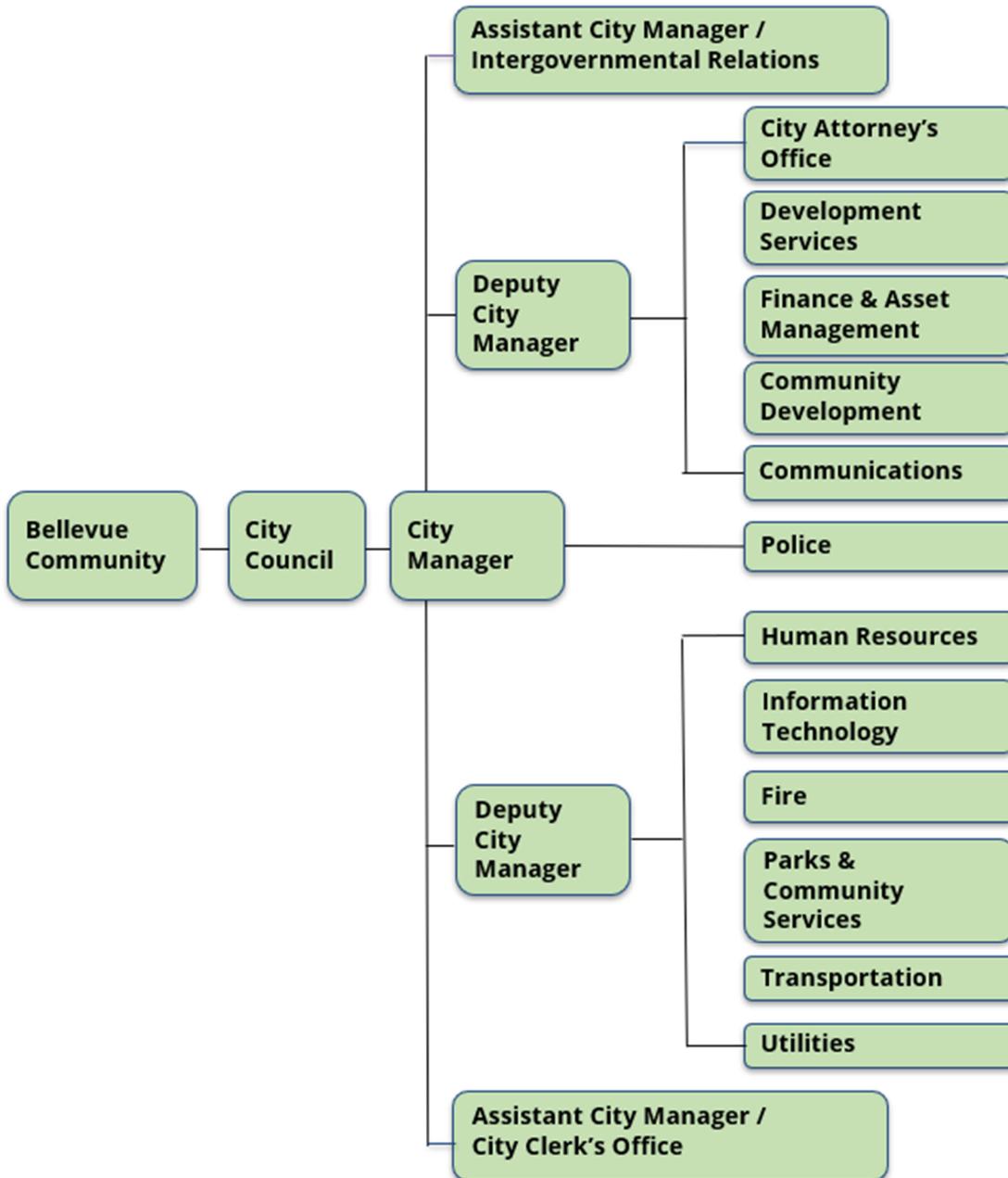
Figure 1-7 shows the race/ethnic distribution of Bellevue's population in 2018.

Figure 1-8 shows key demographic characteristics showing the 2000 and 2010 Census data with the American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2015 and the current ACS period.

Figure 1-9 summarizes other trends for 2016 through 2020.

**Figure 1-1** City of Bellevue Hierarchical Organizational Chart

## City of Bellevue Administrative Structure 2021-2022





# About Bellevue

**Figure 1-2 Principal Activities**

<p><b>City Attorney</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal support for City Council, all departments, and boards and commissions</li> <li>• Prosecution</li> <li>• Litigation</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Finance and Asset Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General supervision over the City's financial affairs</li> <li>• Service First Public Service Desk</li> <li>• Facilities services</li> <li>• Mechanical and electronic equipment repair</li> </ul>
<p><b>City Clerk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council support</li> <li>• City records and documents</li> <li>• Hearing Examiner staffing</li> <li>• Community Council staffing</li> </ul>	<p><b>City Manager</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City administration</li> <li>• Intergovernmental relations</li> <li>• Media relations and publications</li> <li>• Diversity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Human Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel services, recruitment, selection</li> <li>• Matters of personnel policy</li> <li>• Compensation and classification</li> <li>• Workforce diversity</li> <li>• Staff training</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire suppression and rescue services</li> <li>• Fire prevention and education</li> <li>• Emergency medical services</li> <li>• Disaster preparedness</li> <li>• Hazardous materials emergency management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street maintenance</li> <li>• Transportation planning, design, construction management, and operation</li> <li>• Transportation Commission staffing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Development Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development review and permitting</li> <li>• Clearing and grading permitting and inspection</li> <li>• Code enforcement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parks &amp; Community Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of city parks and recreation programs</li> <li>• Youth Link</li> <li>• Human services</li> <li>• Human Services Commission staffing</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Park planning and development</li> <li>• Park Board staffing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rezones</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Comprehensive planning</li> <li>• Community outreach</li> <li>• Planning Commission staffing</li> <li>• Economic and demographic statistical analysis</li> <li>• Community development functions of CIP</li> <li>• Arts program and Arts Commission staffing</li> <li>• Business development and retention</li> <li>• Redevelopment of small neighborhood centers</li> <li>• Promote tourism and international trade</li> </ul>
<p><b>Information Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of City's computer and telecommunications systems</li> <li>• Telephone systems management</li> <li>• Computer applications programming</li> <li>• Geographic information systems (GIS)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Utilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utilities</li> <li>• Private utility franchising</li> <li>• Utility billing</li> <li>• Environmental Services Commission staffing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Police</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policing functions</li> <li>• Police-related community programs</li> <li>• Park patrol</li> <li>• Public safety communications center</li> </ul>	



# About Bellevue

**Figure 1-3** Current Councilmembers and Directors

## Elected City Council

Mayor ..... Lynne Robinson  
 Deputy Mayor ..... Jared Nieuwenhuis

Council .....Jeremy Barksdale  
 ..... Conrad Lee  
 .....Jennifer Robertson  
 .....John Stokes  
 .....Janice Zahn

## Appointed Administrative Staff

City Manager ..... Brad Miyake  
 Deputy City Manager..... Mary Kate Berens  
 Deputy City Manager..... Nathan McCommon  
 Director of Intergovernmental Relations..... Joyce Nichols  
 City Attorney .....Kathy Gerla  
 Assistant City Manager/City Clerk ..... Kyle Stannert  
 Development Services Director .....Mike Brennan  
 Finance and Asset Management Director ..... Toni Call  
 Fire Chief .....Jay Hagen  
 Human Resources Director ..... Joy St. Germain  
 Chief Information Officer .....Sabra Schneider  
 Parks & Community Services Director ..... Michael Shiosaki  
 Community Development Director ..... Mac Cummins  
 Police Chief.....Steve Mylett  
 Transportation Director .....Andrew Singelakis  
 Utilities Director ..... Nav Otal



## About Bellevue

**Figure 1-4** Advisory Boards and Commissions

Board or Commission	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
<i>Advisory</i>			
Transportation Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports as required by the traffic standards code or requested by the City Council (BCC 3.63.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviews City Manager’s Transportation Department proposed CIP budget and provides feedback on the Preliminary Budget.</li> </ul>
Parks & Community Services Board	The Board shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. With respect to city parks and community services facilities and programs, the Board may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Board shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on policies regarding parks and open space and community services issues (BCC 3.62.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advises the Council on the Parks’ CIP.</li> <li>Reviews existing and potential new CIP projects.</li> <li>Communicates CIP priorities to Council via a Board-approved memo and oral communication to Council.</li> </ul>
Environmental Services Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Commission shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on city water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utility programs (BCC 3.55.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advises Council on Utilities Department budget through approval of Water, Sewer, and Storm Drainage rates.</li> </ul>



## About Bellevue

Board or Commission	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
Human Services Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Commission shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on human services issues and policy (BCC 3.61.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviews and recommends to Council funding for various Human Services agencies (including Parks, Community Development, Development Services, Police, and Fire). The Commission's role includes reviewing City and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.</li> </ul>
Planning Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council, and shall review, advise and make recommendations to the Council regarding the comprehensive plan, land use issues, and the city's vision (BCC 3.64.070).	7	N/A
Library Advisory Board	The Board shall make periodic reports and recommendations to the City Council and City Manager relative to the scope and quality of library services being provided by the King County Library District to the residents of the city and, to the extent, it is requested to do so by the City Manager, shall represent the city's interests before the King County Library Board with respect to such services. (BCC 3.67.040).	7	N/A
Arts Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the Council concerning matters of art (BCC 3.56.070).	7	N/A



## About Bellevue

Board or Commission	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
<b>Non-Advisory</b>			
Bellevue Convention Center	To govern the affairs of the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA), which was established by City Council action on December 4, 1989. All corporate powers of the BCCA are exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.	7	N/A
Civil Service	To provide for, formulate, and hold competitive tests to determine the relative qualifications of persons who seek employment for the position of Police Officer or Firefighter with the City of Bellevue; to provide promotion based on merit, to give uniformed personnel tenure; and to provide for a commission to investigate, by a public hearing, suspensions, demotions, and dischargers.	5	N/A
Diversity Advisory Network	To provide counsel to the city on how to better reach, serve, communicate, and collaborate with Bellevue's diverse community; to collect community feedback to help assess city services from a cultural competency lens; to engage in cross-cultural dialogue focused on diversity issues; and to provide feedback and insight on issues relevant to communities in Bellevue.	21	N/A
LEOFF 1 Disability Board	To act upon, approve, or deny firefighters' and law enforcement officers' claims for disability leave/retirement or medical benefits.	5	N/A
Youth Link Board	To advise the City Council on issues facing Bellevue's youth, to involve youth in current community issues, to utilize youth ideas to address community concerns, and to create new outlets for youth opportunities.	12	N/A

## B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

### A Growing City

Spanning an area of 4.7 square miles near Meydenbauer Bay, the City of Bellevue was incorporated in 1953, with a population of 5,950. Development continued in areas east of the city, including the building of the Lake Hills planned community, which brought hundreds of new families to the area. Construction of the Evergreen Point Floating bridge also facilitated further growth. The young city proceeded to annex neighboring areas, growing to span over 28 square miles and reaching over 61,000 in population by 1970.

During the 1970s and 80s, annexation and population growth continued, but at a slower pace. Employment growth took off with the number of jobs quadrupling. For the first time, in 1990, the number of jobs in Bellevue, 89,910, surpassed the number of residents, 86,874.

Over the last couple of decades, Bellevue has grown beyond its “suburban” status to become a thriving metropolitan city that is home to many of the world’s leading high-tech firms. Today Bellevue has an estimated population of 148,100 (the fifth largest city in the state) and an equally large employment base of 152,758 jobs. By 2035, Bellevue is projected to reach over 160,400 residents and nearly 185,100 jobs.



### Location

Strategically located at the intersection of Interstate 90, State Route 520, and Interstate 405, Bellevue is both the geographic center and the economic anchor of the Eastside. It is 11 miles from Seattle to the west, 28 miles from Everett to the north, and 36 miles from Tacoma to the south. Bellevue is also about three hours north of Portland, Oregon, and three hours south of Vancouver, Canada.

## About Bellevue

### A “City in a Park”

With the Cascade Mountains to the east, the Olympic Mountains to the west, and Mount Rainier to the south, Bellevue is surrounded by natural beauty. When viewed from the air, Bellevue fulfills its image as a “City in a Park.” Lying between Lakes Washington and Sammamish, interlaced with miles of urban forests, open streams, wetlands, freshwater lakes, and foothills rising to almost 1,500 feet, Bellevue is blessed with a rich natural



environment. The city treasures and protects these natural places, maintaining more than 2,700 acres – nearly 13 percent of its land area – in city-owned open space, including natural areas and developed parks, greenbelts, and wetlands. Even in the heart of the downtown business district, Bellevue’s Downtown Park provides a green respite, an informal gathering place, and a popular location for special events and celebrations. Abundant vegetation softens the impacts of commercial areas and blends them into the natural environment.

Bellevue provides residents and visitors with a wealth of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, including sailing, fishing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, golf, and water skiing.



### Quality Neighborhoods

Visitors to Bellevue often remark that the city feels “safe and clean.” Residents and businesses value well-maintained homes and properties. The city places a high priority on maintaining public infrastructure, opting to ensure that existing facilities are in good condition before building new ones. Bellevue is also a safe place, with relatively low crime rates for a community of its size.

## About Bellevue

In 2020, 63,788 households resided in Bellevue. Residents choose from a variety of housing types and living environments, ranging from quiet, older neighborhoods to new high-rise communities in Downtown, to modern view homes on Cougar Mountain near Bellevue's southern edge. This diverse range of housing options provides choices for people in all phases of life.

### A Vibrant Downtown

Downtown Bellevue is among the Northwest's most distinctive business districts, featuring a successful mix of office towers, stores, theatres, restaurants, and hotels, along with such institutions as the Bellevue Arts Museum, the Bellevue Regional Library, and the Meydenbauer Convention Center. Over 58,175 jobs are located Downtown and an increasing number of people (13,892 in 2018) live in Downtown, where new apartments and condominiums are coalescing into true urban neighborhoods. A majority of the city's future growth is planned to occur in Downtown and BelRed as those neighborhoods continue to redevelop.



### A Strong Economy

Stay-at-home measures, ordered to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, have closed down sectors of the Bellevue economy. Brick-and-mortar retailers were particularly hard-hit resulting in substantial job losses. However, other sectors of the local economy, particularly construction, saw substantial growth during 2020, offsetting some of the impact of COVID-19 on other parts of the economy. In comparison to the rest of the Puget Sound region, the City of Bellevue has a relatively bright outlook, with lower unemployment, higher per capita income, and faster home price growth outpacing the rest of the communities in the region.

Overall, the fundamentals of the Bellevue economy are strong. As part of a large and complex metropolitan region of 4.0 million people, Bellevue is a hub for information technology, aerospace, business services, and retail companies. Microsoft, T-Mobile, Amazon, Concur, Symetra, and Boeing are some of its largest employers.

## About Bellevue

The city also has three of the premier health care providers in the region, Overlake Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, and Children’s Hospital, located just east of Downtown, in Bellevue’s medical district.

Downtown Bellevue and Bel-Red are receiving public investment in the form of the 14-mile light-rail extension from Seattle to Microsoft’s headquarters that is set to open in 2023. Sound Transit continues to build the light rail and is on target to open in 2023. This investment in the downtown core will draw more investment into downtown. In fact, Colliers counts more than 1.8 million square feet of new office space planned in the Bel-Red corridor and the Overlake area. More than one-third of this space is recently completed or under construction in the Spring District, and all of it has been claimed by Facebook. Hundreds of apartments have been built in the Spring District with one complex already sold for \$150 million. (Source: *Puget Sound Business Journal*)

In typical years, Meydenbauer Convention Center attracts over a quarter of a million people to the city each year. While visitors were down in 2020 due to closures and reduced capacity necessitated by the response to COVID-19, Meydenbauer Convention Center will continue to be an attraction for Bellevue visitors in future years. The Port of Seattle, the seventh-largest container port in North America, is less than 20 minutes from Downtown Bellevue. The city is less than half an hour from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and several commuter airfields, which provide links to other cities in the Pacific Northwest as well as international destinations.

Downtown’s luxury shopping centers, the Bellevue Collection, and the Shops at the Bravern pull in tourists from all over the world. Bellevue’s current daytime population is estimated at 243,100, and Bellevue ranks second in the state for retail sales and second in King County for property values (as measured by assessed valuation).

### Bellevue Schools and Higher Education

Bellevue’s strong economy is directly related to Bellevue being one of the most highly educated communities in the nation, with 69 percent of its adult residents having achieved a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2019. The city’s schools are also consistently rated among the best in the country, which attracts families to the city.

With a total enrollment of 20,295 students in 2019-2020, the Bellevue School District includes 16 regular elementary schools, one Spanish Immersion elementary school, one Mandarin dual-language elementary school, five regular middle schools, four regular high schools, and two alternative middle/high



## About Bellevue

schools. Four of Bellevue School District’s regular high schools were awarded gold medals by the U.S. News and World Report’s 2020 ranking of Best High Schools.

Bellevue is also home to Bellevue College, the fourth largest institution of higher learning in Washington. While the majority of Bellevue College students come from communities throughout the greater Puget Sound region, many students come from all over the world, including over 1,400 international students from more than 61 countries. Bellevue College had an average quarterly enrollment of 13,887 students for the 2019-2020 enrollment year.

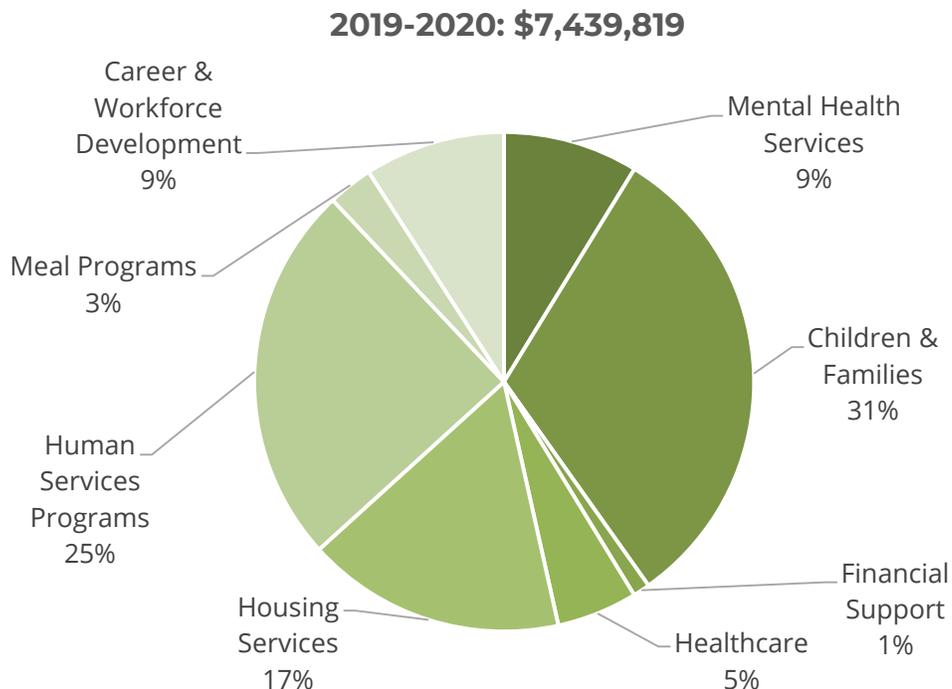
### Climate

Mild winters and cool summers characterize Bellevue. High temperatures in July average about 77° F (25° C) compared to an 86° F (30° C) United States average, while low temperatures in January average 36° F (2° C) compared to a 23° F (-5° C) United States average. Average rainfall in the region is about 41 inches per year compared to 24 inches in San Francisco, 38 inches in Chicago, and 49 inches in Boston.

### Community Partnerships

Bellevue partners with dozens of local and regional nonprofits to deliver essential services to individuals and families. In 2019 and 2020, the City of Bellevue provided \$7.5 million in grants to nonprofits to provide healthcare, meals, housing, and other social services to low-income and at-risk populations.

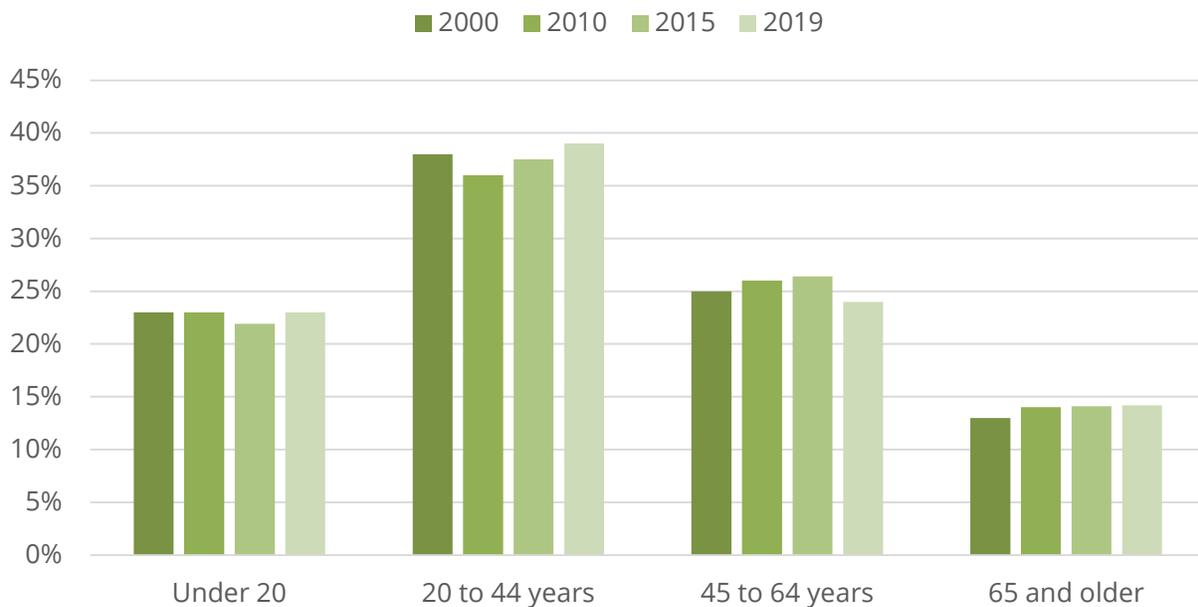
**Figure 1-5** Community Partnership Spending, 2019-2020



## Demographics

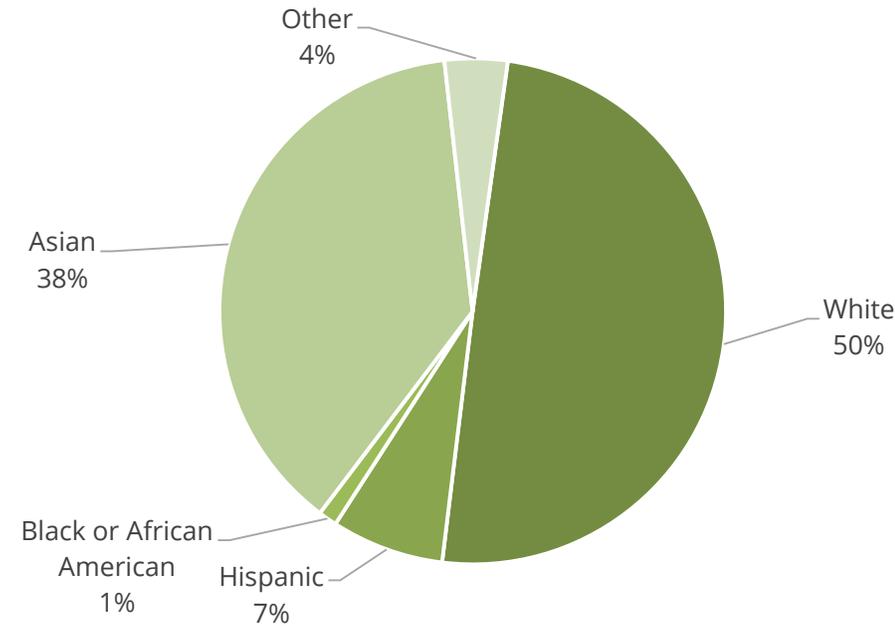
Bellevue's estimated population as of September 1, 2020 was 148,100, and it is projected to reach 163,100 by 2035. As the city has matured over the decades and its population has grown, Bellevue has become more diverse socially, culturally, and economically as demonstrated by the charts below.

**Figure 1-6** Age Distribution of Bellevue's Population, 1990 – 2019



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 and 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey; Historical Geographic Information System: Version 2.0. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota 2011.

**Figure 1-7 Race / Ethnic Distribution**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey; Washington State Office of Financial Management for the citywide population.

**Figure 1-8 Summary of Key Demographic Trends**

Demographic Characteristics	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 ACS	2019 ACS
Median age	38.2	38.5	38.2	36.5
Percent of population age 65 or older	13%	14%	14%	14%
Percent of a minority race or ethnicity	28%	41%	41%	50%
Percent Asian	17%	28%	31%	38%
Percent population foreign born*	25%	33%	36%	41%
Percent of population (age 5+) that speak a language other than English at home*	27%	38%	40%	44%
Percent of adults (age 25+) with a Bachelor's degree or higher*	54%	59%	63%	71%
Percent of employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations*	53%	60%	60%	67%



## About Bellevue

Demographic Characteristics	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 ACS	2019 ACS
Household median income (in 2019 inflation adjusted dollars)*	\$89,179	\$91,993	\$105,402	\$127,402
Percent of individuals with incomes below poverty*	6%	7%	7%	6%
<b>* Note: Not all American Community Survey estimates are directly comparable to decennial census figures.</b>				

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey.

**Figure 1-9** Other Trends

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.2%	2.9%	2.5%	6.4%**
Assessed Value (billions)	\$44.4	\$49.4	\$56.5	\$64.9	\$68.1
Total Budget All City Funds (millions)***	\$869.3	\$970.3	\$944.1	\$1,064.4	\$1,126.7

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, King County Assessor, City of Bellevue amended budget.

\*September 2020 data

\*\*Employment statistics significantly impacted by COVID-19

\*\*\* Includes reserves



# Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

## Public Engagement

The 2021-2022 budget process includes several options for public engagement. The **Budget Process Public Involvement Website** is available at <https://bellevuewa.gov/budget> and provides links and contact information for anyone interested in further information. Below is a status of each engagement option.

## Resident and Business Surveys

### Budget Survey

<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/finance/budget-and-performance/performance-reports/budget-survey>

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 2019 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

The City Council holds three public hearings on the 2021-2022 budget to provide stakeholders multiple opportunities to officially comment on the operating and capital budgets. Two public hearings, one in July and the other in September, 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.



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

Summaries of the July, September, 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 2020.

### Public comment

The public are also welcome and encouraged to speak during public comment periods at all regular Council meetings once physical meetings resume. Council agendas are posted on the Council website in advance of the meeting.

### Boards and Commissions

Four city boards and commissions provide input on the budget process and they can be found at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards\\_commissions.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards_commissions.htm)

- 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.

### E-mail/Contact Councilmembers

Comments to the full Council may be emailed to [Council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Council@bellevuewa.gov) or by leaving a voicemail with the Council Office at 452-452-7810.

### E-mail/Contact Finance and Asset Management

#### 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 the department at 425-452-5281 or at [FAM@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FAM@bellevuewa.gov)

#### Information Provided Upon Request

Finally, the Finance and Asset Management Department responds to any communication received regarding the budget process. Please contact the department at 425-452-5281 or at [FAM@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FAM@bellevuewa.gov)



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

### Public Hearings Testimony (paraphrased)

#### July 27, 2020 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes)

Assistant City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo noted that Council's desk packet included the comments submitted to the City Clerk and the Budget Manager. Additional comments were sent directly to the Council via email for consideration.

The following individuals provided public comment:

1. Lucas Peterson, a resident of southwest Bellevue, said the purpose of his testimony is to promote and support the demand made by the Eastside for Black Lives organization to remove school resource officers (SROs) from the Bellevue School District. He said that none of the key community indicators or performance indicators used by City staff considered the views of the people most affected by the SRO program. He said SROs do not create safe schools, and they perpetuate the school to prison pipeline in Bellevue. Mr. Peterson commented on equity and asked the City to defund the police department and to support affordable housing. He asked the Council to approve a budget that reduces harm for black and brown students. He said students want counselors and social workers as well as accountability for racist ideas in their schools.

2. Rachel Krinsky thanked Councilmembers for their work on behalf of the community. She noted that she is the Executive Director for LifeWire but speaking as the Co-Chair of the King County Alliance for Human Services. She said she sent a letter in March asking the Council to increase human services funding to two percent of the General Fund. Acknowledging the impacts of the pandemic on the City's budget, she sent a second letter in May asking the City to maintain its current level of funding. Ms. Krinsky said the City has gone the extra mile to provide needed funds during the public health emergency. She said it has been nice to see the community coming together to help each other. She said many families are experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship. She asked the Council to maintain human services funding levels and to increase funding where possible.

3. Christopher Randalls expressed support for funding related to climate change actions, including renewable energy investments, new and greener building codes, and non-motorized transportation facilities. He noted current discussions nationwide about public safety funding and functions. He expressed concern regarding systemic racism in our society and the use of chokeholds by police officers. He noted statistics regarding a disproportionate number of arrests and traffic citations for minority individuals. Mr. Randalls encouraged the Council to defund the police department by



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

a minimum of 25 percent and to engage the public in deciding how to use the funding.

4. Mahathi Mangipudi, a senior at Interlake High School, noted her interest in earth sciences and climate change, which she said is already impacting our communities through extreme weather events and forest fires. She said she founded an initiative to elevate youths' voices in climate protection advocacy. She thanked the City for its work to update the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Plan. She said the climate crisis will affect all aspects of society, including the economy. Ms. Mangipudi expressed concern about the health impacts related to climate change as well. She said the City must prioritize climate change items in the budget.

5. Jan Keller, a Lake Hills resident, thanked the Council and staff for their hard work during the pandemic and during this time of asking important questions about racial justice. She noted that she is a member of People for Climate Action (PCA) Bellevue but speaking as an individual. Ms. Keller urged the Council to fund climate action planning in the budget.

6. Warren Halvorsen said that most organization's budgets can be reduced by approximately 15 percent without impacting future results. He expressed concern regarding personnel costs. He expressed support for complete funding for the Police Department and the Fire Department. He said Bellevue is fortunate to have extraordinary Chiefs in both agencies. Referring to the earlier update regarding the incident in the Somerset neighborhood, Mr. Halvorsen noted that pipeline fuel cannot be extinguished with water.

7. April Stevens thanked the Council for all of its work to protect Bellevue's beauty and livability. She said she appreciates the City's response to the pandemic. She asked the Council to fund climate action planning in the budget. She said that being proactive with climate actions can actually accelerate the economy. She asked the Council to ensure that the budget reflects the crucial importance of climate action planning.

8. Matthew Tkachuk noted that he lives near the border between Bellevue and Redmond. He concurred with comments made earlier by Christopher Randalls and thanked everyone who took the time to speak today, especially the youths.

9. Cynthia Cole commented on the role of public safety in overall quality of life. She expressed concern regarding nationwide efforts to defund police and suggested increased funding for the Police Department. She expressed support for separate social services staff to respond to calls involving individuals experiencing



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

homelessness or in need of other services (e.g., mental health services). She noted that Fire Department personnel depend on the Police Department to secure incident scenes to enable them to safely work on saving lives.

10. Ruth Lipscomb, a resident of the Newport Shores neighborhood, expressed concern regarding the militarization of police departments across the country and in Bellevue. She noted that the Bellevue Police Department deployed its armored vehicle and SWAT personnel to Seattle over the weekend. She said there are rumors that foam bullets used by the department were provided by the Bellevue Police Foundation. Ms. Lipscomb highlighted information from the Foundation's web site. She asked whether there is a process to ensure that the equipment requested and any training provided by outside funders is in alignment with the City's values. She requested enhanced transparency in the Police Department's budget, including any resources received from outside groups. She suggested reallocating a portion of the police funding to areas of the budget that more equitably support the well-being of all fellow citizen.

11. Ruth Vaughan spoke to the need for a strong emphasis on public safety for a city to attract residents, businesses, and visitors. She said it is not reasonable to defund the police based on a few specific incidents. She said that lawlessness has not been effective in Seattle, where a group of individuals have established control of several blocks. She noted that two deaths have occurred in Seattle's occupied area. Ms. Vaughan expressed support for community policing and for the Police Department's interactions with youth. She asked the Council to not reduce public safety funding. Ms. Vaughan expressed support for prohibiting the use of chokeholds.

### **September 21, 2020 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes)**

Assistant City Manager Kyle Stannert said fourteen individuals signed up to speak during the hearing. The City received four written communications regarding the budget and CIP Plan and those have been provided in the Council's desk packet. Mr. Stannert said David Plummer signed up to speak. However, he notified the City Clerk's Office earlier in the day that he would not be able to participate. Mr. Plummer sent written comments to the Council the previous week.

The following individuals came forward to comment:

1. Dave Hamilton, a resident of the Tam O'Shanter neighborhood, said he served on the task force created by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to draft the letter provided to the Council tonight. He noted the strong sense of community in Bellevue. He encouraged the City to maintain its critical



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

investments and to be strategic in budget reductions related to the COVID-19 impacts. He expressed concern regarding affordable housing needs. Mr. Hamilton thanked Councilmembers for their work.

2. Albert Rosenthal encouraged the City to not defund the Bellevue Police Department. He noted an article he sent to the Council and said the vast majority of police officers are not racist. He opined that most of the individuals who are killed by police were resisting arrest. He expressed concern regarding the handling of the looting in Downtown Bellevue in late May. Mr. Rosenthal encouraged the Council to not increase taxes.

3. Court Olson thanked the Council for its support of climate action efforts and for signing the updated agreement with the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C). He noted a global effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, which is consistent with the K4C commitments. He encouraged the City to be a regional leader and to retain funding in the budget for climate change initiatives. Mr. Olson acknowledged that it will take a significant staffing effort to adopt and implement a robust climate action plan.

4. Noel Pai-Young expressed concern regarding public discussion about defunding the police department. She said the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased violence, including domestic violence. She encouraged the Council to continue full funding for the police department. She noted lawsuits in other cities responding to local government's efforts to reduce police funding. She encouraged enhanced transparency and accountability. Ms. Pai-Young encouraged the recruitment of more women police to be available on site in domestic violence and sex trafficking situations involving women and children. She suggested that wildfires should be investigated to ensure whether they are related to arson or climate change.

5. Matt Jack, Director of Public Policy for the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), said that he and Chris Johnson (Chamber of Commerce) would comment on their joint message regarding the challenges and opportunities facing the City's budget. Mr. Jack referred the Council to their letter submitted earlier in the day. He described the involvement of the business community to identify key priorities and proposed solutions. Mr. Jack noted the Keep Bellevue Strong initiative to support economic resiliency and recovery and to ensure that the City continues the capital investments needed to add the capacity needed to support continued growth. Mr. Jack thanked Councilmembers for their leadership.

6. McKenzie Toomey, a sophomore at the International School, expressed her concerns regarding climate change. She noted her involvement in organizations including the Sustainability Ambassadors and the Bellevue Youth Climate Action Team. She thanked



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

Councilmembers for their dedication and commitment to Bellevue and for their efforts to keep the community safe throughout the pandemic. She thanked the Council for allocating funds for climate action planning, which will be important in economic recovery as well. She said that reducing Bellevue's carbon footprint will increase community health, provide jobs, and protect the environment.

7. Chris Johnson, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, commented regarding the recommendations of the Chamber and BDA joint budget task force. Noting the uncertainty regarding the pandemic and economic recovery, Mr. Johnson encouraged flexibility in terms of funding priorities. He requested continued investments to support the COVID-19 response and economic recovery, maintain current funding levels for police and fire services, and to support health and human services for members of Bellevue who are struggling to meet basic needs. Mr. Johnson urged the Council to continue to invest in transportation projects, including those listed in the BDA-Chamber joint letter to the Council. He briefly highlighted additional suggestions provided in their written comments to the Council.

8. Charles Landau encouraged the Council to maintain funding for the Bellevue Police Department. He said his family no longer feels safe in Seattle. He expressed concern regarding homelessness and the use of illegal drugs in public. He said he moved to Bellevue in part due to its police department and public safety. He encouraged continued full funding for the police.

9. Denny Andrews said he is a former Air Force officer and retired businessman. He said he strongly opposes any defunding of the police department. He noted the protests and related violence in Seattle, Portland, Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York City. He encouraged the City to consider reductions in other areas of the budget.

10. Marlene Meyer said she has worked as an educator in Bellevue for more than 20 years and she has seen the impressive growth. She noted her experience living in California and in observing both the positive and negative elements of rapid growth due to the technology industry (e.g., traffic congestion and pollution). Ms. Meyer thanked the Council for signing the updated K4C agreement. She encouraged adequate funding for addressing the impacts of climate change.

11. Hanna Floss, a resident of the Crossroads neighborhood, encouraged the Council to provide needed human services funding.



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

12. Stefan Sharkansky expressed support for maintaining the current level of funding for the Bellevue Police Department. He commended Bellevue's leadership in supporting funding for public safety.

13. John Bagge said he has worked and lived in Bellevue since 1976. He expressed concern regarding public safety and commended the Bellevue Police Department. He expressed support for de-escalation training for police officers. He urged the Council to continue to fully fund the police department.

14. Heidi Dean expressed support for continuing to fully fund the police department. She said it is important to continue the Bellevue Police Department's relationship with the Bellevue School District through the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. She expressed support for the creation of affordable housing that would allow police officers to live in the communities that they police. She said that police officers have found that to be rewarding in other cities.

15. Ruth Lipscomb referred to the earlier public comments regarding the issue of defunding the police. She said it is not the funding that we need to be looking at, but we need to be listening to the community, especially to those who maybe have not had positive interactions with police officers. She noted that the Bellevue police officer union contract expires at the end of 2020. She asked the City to not sign a new contract until after the Mayor's Pledge public safety review process is completed. She said there might be an opportunity to include requirements ensuring transparency and accountability in the next union contract.

### **November 23, 2020 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes)**

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo noted that the Council received 13 total written comments on the budget topic and those comments were included as part of the desk packet provided to Council.

The following individuals provided oral comment:

1. Reverend Patty Ebner noted that she is one of the pastors at the First Congregational Church of Bellevue and a member of the Eastside Interfaith Council. She thanked the Council for the City's response to the pandemic, including increased human services funding. She encouraged the City to support the Muslim Community Resource Center and The Sophia Way transitional housing program.



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2. Lei Wu encouraged the Council to support funding for the cross-cultural center. She said that she and her husband moved to the United States more than 20 years ago. She said a cross cultural center would bring the community together and provide the opportunity for everyone to share their values, heritage, customs, arts, and history. Ms. Wu encouraged the Council to engage the public in planning the cross-cultural center.

3. Samuel Rodriguez said he is the founder and CEO of a company that works in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. He said the cross-cultural center provides the opportunity for businesses, organizations, faith communities, cultural groups, parents, volunteers, and others to become engaged in learning and sharing their cultures.

4. Matt Jack, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), expressed support for the preliminary budget released in October. He noted the BDA-Chamber of Commerce joint letter of support in the meeting materials. He said the budget responds to the revenue shortfall related to the pandemic while funding vital services and capital projects that support recovery and growth.

5. Chris Johnson, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, said the BDA and the Chamber encourage the City to continue investing in its COVID-19 response and economic recovery, maintain current funding levels for the Police and Fire Departments, continue supporting human services, and to consider a phased opening of Fire Station 10. Mr. Johnson urged the Council to adopt the one-percent property tax adjustment. He encouraged the City to be aggressive in implementing transportation projects and to seek grant funding. He thanked Councilmembers for their leadership through difficult times. He said the BDA and the Chamber look forward to continued collaboration with the City.

6. Weitong Wang, a high school student, expressed enthusiasm for the cross-cultural center. He said the center would provide accessible space and programs for residents of different cultural identities to learn and to support each other. He believes there are other young people like him who would be interested in connecting and finding common interests and activities.

7. Jennifer Keller, a Lake Hills resident, said she was speaking on behalf of People for Climate Action (PCA) Bellevue. She thanked the Council for its budget allocation for the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. She said it is important to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2030. She encouraged an allocation of



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

at least \$500,000 for the implementation of the plan over the next two years. She thanked the City for its commitment to addressing the seriousness of climate change.

8. April Stevens concurred with Ms. Keller’s request that the Council allocate \$500,000 toward the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan over the next two years.

9. Ruth Lipscomb noted the Council’s vision statement that “diversity is our strength.” She said that with diversity comes friction between people and between groups. She said greater investments are needed to address racial equity and justice. She noted references in the budget to an equity lens but said the concept is not defined. She said there are five references to Amazon in the budget but no references to racial equity. Ms. Lipscomb encouraged the City to develop a racial equity task force to bring the community together around fulfilling the Council’s vision.

10. Christopher Randels encouraged the Council to continue to invest in implementing the Vision Zero safety program elements. He expressed support for pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure that promotes sustainable and safe transportation. He thanked the City for including non-motorized transportation facilities in the budget. He thanked the City for the implementation of new pedestrian interval crossings at several intersections. He expressed concern regarding traffic fatalities in Bellevue this year and urged the City to prioritize Vision Zero implementation.

11. Heather Kelley said it is important to center questions of race and equity in all aspects of budgeting. She said she would like to see a formal statement reflecting the City’s commitment to addressing racial equity and to the Council’s pledge to study police use of force. She urged the City to collect and analyze data to identify the areas in need of attention and improvement. She noted that data enables people to focus on facts instead of personal opinions. She asked the Council to use the budget as a vehicle for creating an equitable community for all.

12. John Bagge thanked Councilmembers for their work and for their support of the Police Department and the public safety budget. He asked staff to follow up with him regarding the per capita spending reflected by the Police Department’s budget.

13. Cynthia Cole thanked the City for maintaining full funding for the Police Department and for keeping Bellevue safe. She noted that many protests in other cities resulted in the destruction of minority owned businesses. She thanked the City



## Public Outreach Summary for the 2021-2022 Budget

for its commitment to public safety and racial diversity. She said it is important for minority owned businesses to feel safe in Bellevue.

14. Jared Axelrod, Amazon, said they will be moving 25,000 employees to Bellevue over the next few years. He thanked the City for increasing its human services funding in response to the impacts of the pandemic. He encouraged support for transportation projects and programs to keep pace with growth and to provide multimodal travel options. He expressed support for the City's work on affordable housing and encouraged incentives to address affordability and livability. He expressed support for addressing racial equity. He thanked the Council and staff for the thoughtfulness and pragmatism reflected in the budget.

15. JD Yu, a Somerset resident, said he is president of the Seattle Chinese Cultural Theater. He expressed support for the cross-cultural center and noted the need for facilities and programming to bring the community together. He thanked the Council for funding the cross-cultural center feasibility study and encouraged them to provide funds for additional conceptual design work. He thanked the Council for continuing to support and fund the Police Department.

16. Dennis Curran, Vice President of Administrative Services, Bellevue College, expressed support for the Bellevue College Connection project. He said Bellevue College, King County Metro, and the City of Bellevue have worked together over the past two years to develop a strong partnership. He said the project will greatly enhance transit service for the college. He urged the Council to provide funding to help the college and Metro achieve 100-percent design of the project.

17. Valeriy Goloborodko said he is an immigrant from Ukraine. He described his extensive involvement in the local and regional Ukraine community, including serving as Honorary Consul of Ukraine. He was a co-founder of the Pacific Ukrainian Society, which started the annual Northwest Ukrainian International Festival. Until this year, that event was held in Crossroads Park and became the largest Ukrainian cultural event on the West Coast with last year's attendance of more than 15,000 people. He expressed support for the cross-cultural center. While he believes that performances and exhibits are important, he would like the center to also provide space for cultural organizations to work together on projects and events.

18. Ngaya Swai, a college student, advocated for the creation of a community court in Bellevue for alternative problem solving that is meant to identify and address the underlying issues that are causing criminal activity. The court could handle many misdemeanor crimes that are often committed out of survival or due to mental



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health issues, such as sleeping in a park or disorderly conduct. He said community courts address the causes of criminal activity and they have been shown to reduce recidivism, resulting in lower jail costs. He noted that there are community courts in Shoreline and Redmond.

19. Marrene Franich, a teacher in Bellevue School District, expressed support for funding a racial equity task force. She encouraged the City to collect data on race and policing in Bellevue. She suggested moving funds from the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, which she feels is problematic, to support the establishment of the task force. She expressed concern that the SRO program is generally unfavorable to students of color. She encouraged a task force of City employees, Councilmembers, local racial equity groups, youth organizations, and others.

20. David Allen asked the Council to increase funding for safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure. He expressed support for improving the Mountains to Sound Greenway and the bicycle network. He described his work with companies and universities and their bike commute programs. He said that Amazon, Facebook, and T-Mobile are interested in efforts to encourage bike commuting.

21. Mark Berejka, Director of Government and Community Affairs, REI Co-op, expressed support for the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan, especially the Vision Zero Action Plan and other bike and pedestrian safety projects. He expressed support for an extensive bicycle network from Main Street to the Spring District

22. Al Rosenthal expressed support for fully funding the Police Department. He expressed concern regarding housing and services for the homeless. He wondered whether having individuals living in homelessness will attract more homeless individuals. He opined that drug addiction is the problem, not the lack of housing. He urged the Council to not waste money on addressing climate change because he does not believe it is a threat to the human race.

23. Margaret Li encouraged the Bellevue Police Department to hire a mental health correspondent to assist police officers in the field. She said the correspondents program has been successful in a number of cities in Washington. She suggested that having trained counselors will improve communication, defuse tension, and avoid detainment in certain situations. She encouraged additional training for police officers