

City of Oakland

BUDGET BASICS

Fiscal Year 2025-27

Overview of the City Budget Process

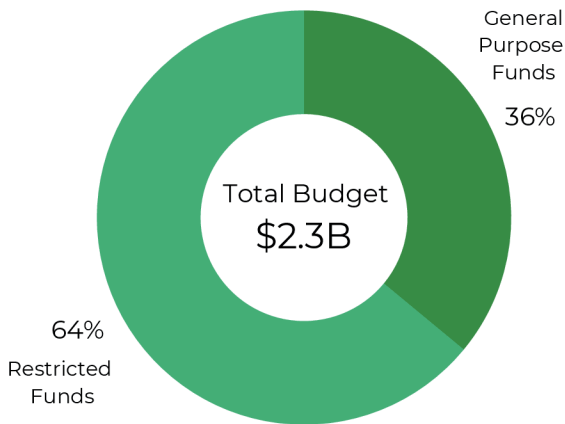


From February to June, every other year, City staff, the Mayor and City Council work together to create a balanced budget by June 30, as required by law.

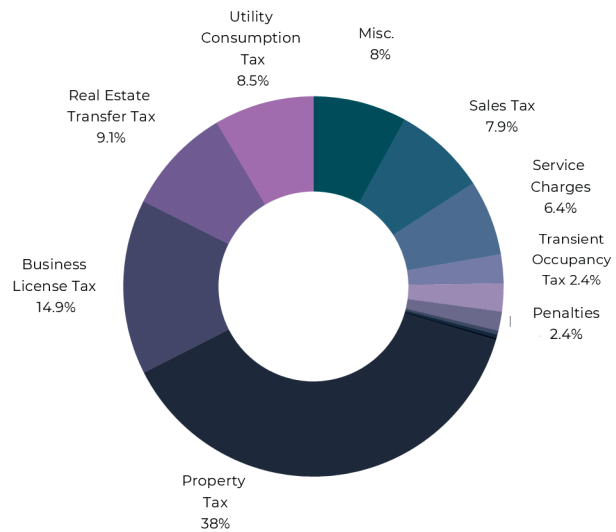
Many Government Agencies provide support for the Oakland community.

Together, we provide essential services and support to our community-- from maintaining roads, sewers, and parks to providing education, transit, and clean water. Many of the services that Oaklanders care about including education, public health, and mental health service are not in the City's budget.

Oakland's total budget is approximately \$2.3B.



THE SOURCES OF GPF REVENUES ARE VARIED



While over half of our revenue comes from taxes, we also earn revenue from service charges, fees, bonds, grants, and other sources. The source of the funds determines what the money can be spent on.

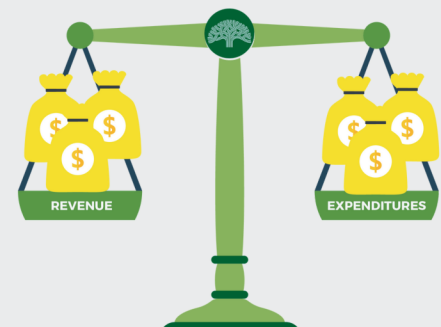
64% of our budget comes through grants and voter-approved bonds (like the library or parks bond) and legally must be used for specific purposes; these are called **Restricted Funds**.

General Purpose Funds are generally supported by tax revenue and make up 36% of our budget. They are the most flexible with regards to what they can be spent on. Public safety (police and fire) are primarily funded through the General Purpose Fund, in part because we don't typically charge for these services.

THE GOAL

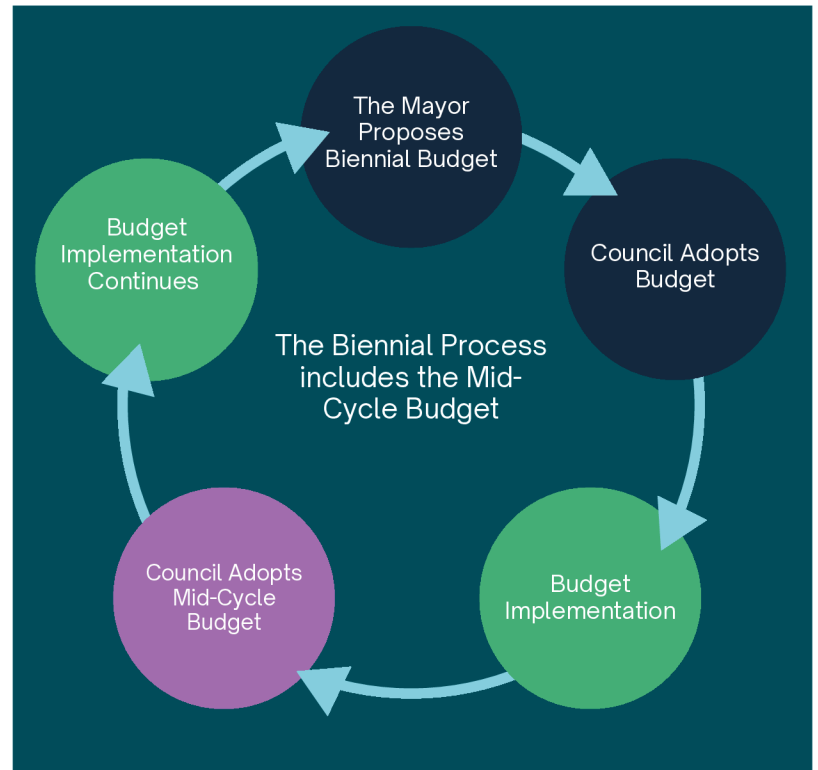
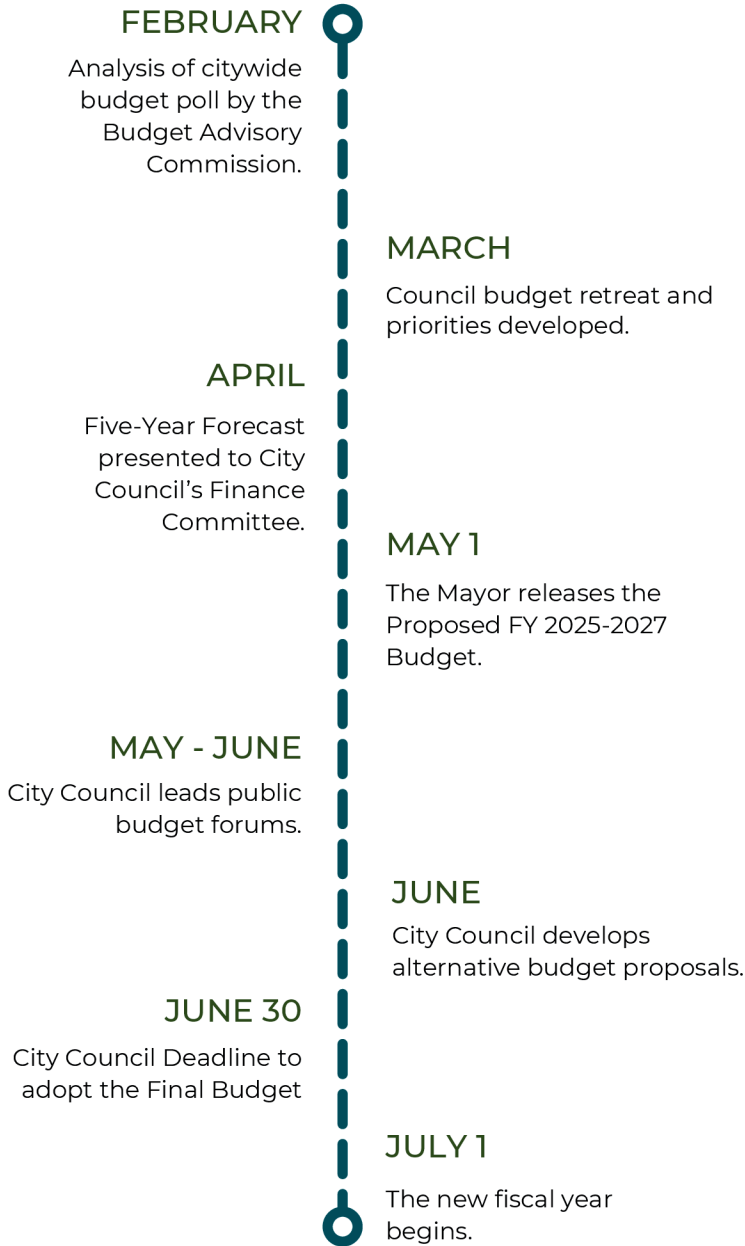
A BALANCED BUDGET

A balanced budget ensures our "revenues" (the amount of money the City brings in) are equal to or greater than our "expenditures" (the amount of money the City spends). While other cities and government agencies have different cycles, Oakland approves a budget every two fiscal years. The budget currently under consideration runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.



BUDGET ADOPTION PROCESS

Community and Council priorities, along with public engagement and input from City staff, shape the proposed budget presented by the Mayor and City Administrator to the City Council. The Council holds public deliberations before adopting the final budget.



Previously on "Oakland Budget"

In July 2024 the City Council provided contingency midcycle budget direction to the City Administrator to (1) manage the ongoing current-year budget shortfall, (2) stabilize fiscal solvency in the current fiscal year, and (3) prepare the City for the upcoming biennial budget process.

To implement this direction, the City has maintained a general fund hiring freeze in place since spring 2024, suspended two police academies, temporarily closed (or "browned out") fire stations, terminated or reduced several City-issued grants, and announced employee layoffs.

While these leadership actions have been difficult, they have also made significant progress moving the City toward the sustainable fiscal balance. Additional tough decisions will be needed in this biennial budget, but if we can make them together we will set the City on a course for long-term stability for our budget and the services it makes possible.

GET INVOLVED

Learn more about the budget, see frequently asked questions, attend upcoming budget town halls, ask budget questions, and share your ideas.

[OAKLANDCA.GOV/BUDGET](https://oaklandca.gov/budget)