EXECUTIVE BUDGET SUMMARY

Published: October 20, 2025

Category: Campaign Materials: Budget Finance

EXECUTIVE BUDGET SUMMARY

Dave Biggers for Mayor – FY 2025-2026

Total Budget: $1.2 billion
Identical to The current administration's Approved Budget

AT A GLANCE

The Question: Same amount of money. How do we spend it?

The Answer: Invest in people, prevention, and community voice.

Category	Current Budget	Our Budget	Change
Total Budget	**$1.2B**	**$1.2B**	**$0**
Public Safety	$379.7M	$395.2M	**+$15.5M**
Employee Raises	$12M (5%)	$27.4M Year 1 (24% compounded)	**+$15.4M**
Community Programs	$150M	$210M	**+$60M**
Democratic Governance	$0	$15M	**+$15M**
Infrastructure	$241M	$241M	Same
Bureaucracy/Admin	$120M	$95M	**-$25M**
Support Services	$380M	$315M	**-$65M**

Bottom Line:
✓ No new taxes
✓ No deficit spending
✓ No layoffs

✓ Better services

THE BIG FOUR CHANGES

1. PUBLIC SAFETY: $395.2M (+$15.5M)

What Changes:

- **63 Mini Police Substations** instead of distant precincts
- **18 Community Wellness Centers** instead of just jail
- **Enhanced Youth Programs** instead of detention
- **Fire Prevention** instead of just emergency response

Why It Works:

- Prevention costs less than reaction
- Community trust reduces crime
- Addressing root causes = lasting change
- Evidence from 50+ cities nationwide

Implementation:

- Year 1: 12 substations, 6 wellness centers
- Year 4: All 63 substations, all 18 wellness centers operational

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2. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION: $27.4M Year 1 (+$15.4M over the current administration)

What Changes:

- **24% compounded raises (7%+5%+5%+5%)** instead of 5%
- **All departments** instead of select positions
- **Competitive with surrounding counties** instead of falling behind

Why It Works:

- Reduces turnover by 35-50%

- Attracts better talent
- Improves service quality
- Saves money long-term (training costs)

Who Benefits:

Department	Investment	Impact
Police/Fire/EMS	+$14M	Retain first responders
Public Works	+$3M	Better infrastructure maintenance
Parks/Library	+$4.7M	Better community services
All Others	+$3.3M	Better government operations

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3. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS: $185M (+$35M)

What Changes:

- **Consolidated programs** instead of scattered initiatives
- **Direct services** instead of administrative overhead
- **Preventive care** instead of emergency-only response

Where It Goes:

- **Youth Development:** $55M
- After-school programs (3-7pm when crime peaks)
- 3,000 summer jobs for teens
- Mentoring and gang intervention

- **Wellness Centers:** $45M
- 18 centers across Louisville
- Primary care + mental health + addiction treatment
- Neighborhood-based, walk-in access

- **Parks & Recreation:** $45M
- Enhanced community centers
- Better maintained facilities
- More programming for families

- **Library Expansion:** $27.8M
- Extended hours

- More programs
- Technology access

- **Violence Prevention:** $15M
- Street outreach workers
- Conflict mediation
- Trauma support

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4. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: $15M (NEW)

What Changes:

- **Participatory Budgeting** – You decide priorities
- **Community Councils** – Your voice matters
- **Transparency** – Every dollar tracked online

How It Works:

- $577,000 per Metro Council district
- Community meetings and proposals
- Democratic voting on neighborhood priorities
- Metro matches funding and implements

Why It Works:

- 3,000+ cities worldwide use this
- Higher citizen satisfaction (90%+)
- Better projects (community-designed)
- Increased civic engagement (40%)
- Faster implementation (20%)

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Cuts & Reallocations: $150M

Administrative Overhead: -$14M

- Consolidate duplicative offices
- Reduce bureaucratic layers
- Streamline operations

Support Service Contracts: -$65M

- Renegotiate expensive contracts
- Bring some services in-house
- Competitive bidding

Criminal Justice Reform: -$36M

- Bail reform (reduce pre-trial detention)
- Mental health diversion programs
- Community-based alternatives

Position Reassignments: -$10M

- Move officers from desks to streets
- Reallocate existing staff more efficiently
- No layoffs, just smarter deployment

Other Efficiencies: -$25M

- Technology improvements
- Process streamlining
- Waste reduction

Total Freed Up: $150M

DEPARTMENT-BY-DEPARTMENT BREAKDOWN

PUBLIC SAFETY (31.2% of budget)

Louisville Metro Police: $245.9M

- **Patrol & Neighborhood Policing:** $155M
- 63 mini substations (phased 4-year deployment)
- Community-based officers

- Walking and bike patrols

- **Investigations:** $42M
- Detectives, forensics, crime analysis
- Same high-quality investigation capacity

- **Support & Administration:** $25.9M
- Training, recruitment, technology
- Reduced from current by moving officers to streets

- **Special Units:** $23M
- SWAT, K-9, traffic, narcotics (as needed)

Louisville Fire: $80M

- **Fire Suppression:** $58M
- Same firefighting capacity
- Enhanced equipment

- **Fire Prevention:** $18M (NEW)
- Public education
- Home inspections
- Smoke detector programs
- Reduce fires before they start

- **Training & Admin:** $4M
- Professional development
- Efficient operations

Emergency Medical Services: $52M

- **Paramedic Services:** $45M
- Same ambulance coverage
- Enhanced training

- **Community Health Integration:** $7M (NEW)
- Mental health crisis teams
- Social worker partnerships
- Non-emergency medical transport

Other Public Safety: $17.3M

- Corrections, Animal Services, etc.
- Maintained or slightly enhanced

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT (16.6% of budget)

Youth Development Department: $55M (NEW)

Consolidates scattered programs into one effective department

- **After-School Programs:** $15M
- **Summer Jobs:** $12M (3,000 teen positions)
- **Mentoring Programs:** $8M
- **Gang Intervention:** $10M
- **Life Skills & Job Training:** $10M

Wellness Centers: $45M (NEW)

18 neighborhood-based health centers

- **Medical Services:** $25M (doctors, nurses, primary care)
- **Mental Health:** $12M (therapists, counselors)
- **Addiction Treatment:** $5M (recovery support)
- **Facilities & Operations:** $3M

Parks & Recreation: $45M

- **Personnel:** $34M (includes competitive pay)
- **Programming:** $20M (expanded offerings)
- **Maintenance:** $12M (better facilities)
- **Capital Improvements:** $4M

Library System: $27.8M

- **Personnel:** $24M (includes competitive pay)
- **Materials & Technology:** $10M
- **Extended Hours:** $5M
- **Facilities:** $3M

Other Community Services: $30M

- Violence Prevention Office
- Zoo, Brightside, etc.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (1.2% of budget)

Participatory Budgeting: $15M

- $577K per Metro Council district (26 districts)
- Community decides neighborhood priorities
- Metro implements winning projects

INFRASTRUCTURE (19% of budget)

Public Works & Assets: $241M

- **Road Maintenance:** $85M
- **Facilities Management:** $65M
- **Fleet Services:** $35M
- **Water/Sewer/Storm:** $35M
- **Capital Projects:** $21M

Same as the current administration – infrastructure needs don't change

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT (13.3% of budget)

Administration & Support: $95M (-$25M from the current administration)

- **Office of Management & Budget:** $12M
- **Human Resources:** $15M
- **Technology Services:** $28M
- **Other Support:** $40M

Consolidated and streamlined for efficiency

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS (3.5% of budget)

Required by Law: $44.8M

- Elected officials (County Attorney, Clerk, etc.)
- Pension obligations
- Debt service (partial)
- Other statutory requirements

Cannot be changed without state law changes

CAPITAL & DEBT (19% of budget)

Long-Term Investments: $241M

- Capital projects
- Debt service payments
- Infrastructure bonds

Maintains existing commitments

FISCAL GUARDRAILS

We Will NOT:
□ Increase taxes
□ Deficit spend
□ Raid reserves
□ Defer infrastructure
□ Lay off employees
□ Break union contracts

We WILL:
✓ Balance the budget

✓ Maintain reserves
✓ Invest in prevention
✓ Value employees
✓ Engage community
✓ Deliver results

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

Year 1 (FY 2026)

- Employee raises: Immediate
- Mini substations: 12 operational
- Wellness centers: 6 open
- Youth summer jobs: 3,000 teens
- Participatory budgeting: First cycle

Year 2 (FY 2027)

- Mini substations: 24 total (12 more)
- Wellness centers: 12 total (6 more)
- After-school programs: Expanded citywide
- Participatory budgeting: Second cycle

Year 3 (FY 2028)

- Mini substations: 36 total (12 more)
- Wellness centers: 18 total (6 more – COMPLETE)
- Fire prevention: Fully operational
- Participatory budgeting: Third cycle

Year 4 (FY 2029)

- Mini substations: 63 total (27 more – COMPLETE)
- All programs: Full implementation
- Outcomes measured and reported
- Adjust and improve based on data

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Public Dashboard:

- Every budget dollar tracked online
- Real-time spending reports
- Program outcome metrics
- Community feedback integrated

Quarterly Reports:

- Performance against goals
- Budget vs. actual spending
- Service quality metrics
- Community satisfaction surveys

Annual Audit:

- Independent financial audit
- Program effectiveness evaluation
- Public presentation to Metro Council
- Recommendations for improvement

Community Access:

- Open budget workshops
- Department head office hours
- Online Q&A forums
- Regular town halls

OUR APPROACH VS. STATUS QUO

What’s The Same:

✓ Total budget: $1.2 billion
✓ Infrastructure investment

✓ Core city services
✓ Union contracts honored
✓ Reserves maintained

What We'll Change:

✓ **Policing:** Neighborhood substations instead of distant precincts
✓ **Healthcare:** Wellness centers instead of jail-only approach
✓ **Employee Pay:** 24% compounded raises (7%+5%+5%+5%) instead of 5%
✓ **Youth:** $55M prevention instead of scattered programs
✓ **Democracy:** $15M community voice instead of top-down
✓ **Administration:** -$25M waste cut instead of bloated bureaucracy

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WHY THIS BUDGET WORKS

1. Evidence-Based

Every major initiative proven in other cities:

- Mini substations: 50+ cities, 20-30% crime reduction
- Wellness centers: 30+ cities, $5.60 saved per $1 spent
- Youth employment: 100+ cities, 20-30% crime reduction
- Participatory budgeting: 3,000+ cities worldwide

2. Fiscally Responsible

- No new taxes
- No deficit spending
- Phased implementation
- Sustainable long-term

3. Community-Centered

- Neighborhood-based services
- Democratic decision-making
- Transparent operations
- Responsive government

4. People-Focused

- Competitive employee pay
- Prevention over punishment
- Health over incarceration
- Investment in next generation

THE BOTTOM LINE

Same Money. Better Priorities. Brighter Future.

The current budget maintains the status quo.
Our budget transforms Louisville.

The current budget reacts to problems.
Our budget prevents them.

The current budget serves bureaucracy.
Our budget serves people.

It's not about spending more. It's about spending smarter.

GET THE DETAILS

Full Budget Document: rundaverun.org/budget
Department Breakdowns: rundaverun.org/departments
Implementation Timeline: rundaverun.org/timeline
Evidence & Research: rundaverun.org/evidence

Questions? Email budget@rundaverun.org
Feedback? Submit at rundaverun.org/feedback

DAVE BIGGERS FOR MAYOR
A Budget for People, Not Politics

Version 1.0 | October 2025 | Complete budget documentation available at rundaverun.org

What This Means for YOUR Neighborhood

Every Louisville neighborhood is unique. Enter your ZIP code to see how this policy directly impacts your community:

Find Your Mini Substation

Enter your ZIP code to see when your neighborhood will receive a community police substation.

Find My Substation

63 ZIP code areas across Louisville will receive mini substations over 4 years.

Part of Dave Biggers' comprehensive public safety plan.

See the Budget Impact

Explore how this policy fits into Dave's comprehensive $1.2 billion budget plan:

How Does Dave's Budget Affect You?

See your personalized impact - zero tax increase, real benefits

 Household Income $50,000 50000
 Children in JCPS 0 0
 Your ZIP Code

Your Personal Impact

How we calculate: Benefits based on average family savings from wellness center access ($800/year), youth program value (after-school + summer jobs), and your specific mini substation timeline. All benefits come from the same $1.2B budget - zero tax increase.

Share your results with friends and family:

 Share My Results

⚖️ Compare This Policy

See how Dave’s approach differs from current administration policies:

⚖️ Policy Comparison: Real Change vs. Status Quo

See the clear differences between Dave Biggers' transformative vision for Louisville and the current mayor's approach. The choice is yours.

 Share This Comparison Print Comparison
 Public Safety Wellness Youth Economy Housing Transparency

Public Safety & Policing

Current Mayor

Traditional policing model

Approach

- Centralized police response
- Reactive approach to crime
- Limited community engagement
- Focus on patrol units

Timeline Ongoing
Budget Status quo funding
Impact Response times: 15-20 minutes average

Dave Biggers

Community-based mini substations

Approach

- 63 mini substations across Louisville (4-year deployment)
- Officers living and working in communities they serve
- Preventative community policing model
- Year 1: 12 substations in highest-need areas

Timeline Year 1-4 phased rollout
Budget Revenue-neutral through property tax restructuring
Impact Response times: 3-5 minutes (neighborhood-based)
□

Mental Health & Wellness

Current Mayor

Limited wellness infrastructure

Approach

- Reliance on existing healthcare facilities
- No dedicated community wellness centers
- Fragmented mental health services
- Emergency-room dependent model

Timeline No expansion planned
Budget Minimal dedicated funding
Impact Long wait times, limited access in underserved areas

Dave Biggers

Regional wellness centers network

Approach

- 18 wellness centers across 6 regions
- Mental health counseling, addiction support
- Youth programs, family services
- 3 centers per region for accessibility

Timeline Year 1-4 phased rollout
Budget Integrated with public safety restructuring
Impact Accessible care within every neighborhood, preventative focus

Youth Development

Current Mayor

Standard recreation programs

Approach

- Traditional rec centers
- Limited after-school programming
- Seasonal sports leagues
- Minimal job training for youth

Timeline Status quo
Budget Existing recreation budget
Impact Serves fraction of Louisville youth

Dave Biggers

Comprehensive youth investment

Approach

- After-school programs at all substations
- Job training and mentorship
- Arts, sports, and STEM programs
- Youth advisory councils
- Summer employment pathways

Timeline Immediate implementation with substation rollout
Budget $1,200 value per child annually
Impact Accessible programs in every neighborhood

Economic Development

Current Mayor

Corporate incentives focus

Approach

- Tax breaks for large corporations
- Downtown-centric development
- Limited support for small business
- Gentrification without displacement protection

Timeline Ongoing
Budget Millions in corporate subsidies
Impact Benefits concentrated in select areas

Dave Biggers

Community wealth building

Approach

- Small business incubators at substations
- Local hiring requirements for city contracts
- Neighborhood-based economic zones
- Affordable housing protection
- Living wage standards

Timeline Immediate policy changes, 4-year infrastructure build
Budget Redirected from corporate subsidies
Impact Jobs and wealth stay in neighborhoods

Housing & Affordability

Current Mayor

Market-driven housing

Approach

- Minimal affordable housing requirements
- Limited tenant protections
- Rising rents in many neighborhoods
- Displacement from development

Timeline No comprehensive plan
Budget Minimal housing trust fund
Impact Affordability crisis worsening

Dave Biggers

Housing as a human right

Approach

- Expanded affordable housing trust fund
- Strong tenant protections
- Community land trusts
- Rent stabilization measures
- Anti-displacement policies for existing residents

Timeline Immediate policy changes
Budget Increased trust fund through property tax reform
Impact Protects residents, prevents displacement

Government Transparency

Current Mayor

Standard reporting

Approach

- Annual budget reports
- Limited real-time data
- Reactive public engagement
- Closed-door development deals

Timeline Status quo
Budget Minimal transparency infrastructure
Impact Limited public accountability

Dave Biggers

Radical transparency

Approach

- Real-time budget dashboard
- Public data portal for all city metrics
- Community advisory boards with veto power
- Open contracting process
- Regular town halls in all neighborhoods

Timeline Immediate implementation
Budget Low-cost digital infrastructure
Impact Citizens empowered with information and decision-making power

The Choice is Clear

Louisville deserves transformative change, not more of the same. Join us in building a city that works for everyone.

Join the Campaign Read Full Policy Platform

What Louisville Residents Say

Community Endorsements

Share This Policy

Help spread the word about Dave's vision for Louisville:

[dbpm_share_buttons]

🔲 Related Policies You Might Like

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🔲 Make Your Voice Heard

Register to Vote

Register to Vote

Make your voice heard! Register to vote and participate in our democracy.

📋 [Register to Vote](#) ✓ [Check Registration](#)

Important Deadlines

- **Registration Deadline:** Typically 30 days before election day
- **Early Voting:** Check your state's early voting schedule
- **Absentee Ballot:** Request absentee ballots early
- **Election Day:** Polls typically open 6 AM - 6 PM

Note: Deadlines vary by state. Check your local election office for specific dates.

Find Your Polling Place

Find Your Polling Location

Enter your address to find your polling place and get directions.

Your Address
City
State KY
ZIP Code
Find My Polling Place

You can also call **1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)** for assistance finding your polling location.

Stay Updated on This Policy

Get notified when this policy is updated or when Dave speaks about this issue in YOUR neighborhood.

* indicates a required field

Email Signup Information
Fax Number (Leave blank)
Name *
Email * We'll send you updates about the campaign
Zip Code 5-digit zip code (optional)
☐ I'm interested in volunteering! We'll send you information about volunteer opportunities
Sign Up

Have Ideas to Improve This Policy?

This is YOUR city. If you have suggestions for how we can make this policy better for Louisville, please share them. Every idea is reviewed.

Suggest an Improvement for Louisville

Have an idea for improving Louisville? Share your policy suggestion below. Your voice matters in shaping our city's future.

Policy Title *
Description *
0/2000 characters
Category Select a category...
Your Name *
Your Email *
ZIP Code (Optional)

☐ I agree that my suggestion may be reviewed and potentially incorporated into campaign policy. My email will only be used to notify me about the status of my suggestion.

Submit Suggestion

NOT ME, WE.

Together, we make Louisville better for everyone.