Detailed Line-Item Budget: FY 2025-2026 ($1.2 Billion)

Published: October 20, 2025

Category: Budget & Finance

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DAVE BIGGERS FOR MAYOR

Detailed Budget: FY 2025-2026

Same Money. Different Priorities. Better Louisville.

Total Budget: $1.2 billion (Same as current approved budget)

THE TRANSFORMATION IN ONE SENTENCE

Current administration's approach: Centralized bureaucracy making decisions for neighborhoods.
Our approach: Neighborhood-focused government putting power in your hands.
The cost: Exactly the same – $1,200,000,000.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Public Safety	**$395,200,000**	**32.9%**	Officers in neighborhoods, not bureaucracy. Prevention, not just reaction.
Community Investment	**$210,000,000**	**16.6%**	Youth programs, wellness centers, parks – building strong communities.
Infrastructure & Services	**$241,000,000**	**20.1%**	Roads, water, waste – the basics done right.
Democratic Governance	**$115,000,000**	**9.6%**	Power to the people through district councils and participatory budgeting.
Employee Raises (4-Year)	**$136,600,000**	**11.4%**	24% compounded raises (Year 1: $27.4M, Years 2-4: $109.2M total)
Support Services	**$127,200,000**	**10.6%**	Debt service, pensions, emergency reserves.
TOTAL	**$1,200,000,000**	**100.0%**	**Revenue neutral. No tax increases.**

PUBLIC SAFETY: $395,200,000

Philosophy: Prevention over reaction. Community over enforcement.

Louisville Metro Police Department: $245,900,000

Current spending: $211.6M | **Our plan:** $245.9M | **Investment:** $34.3M increase

Patrol & Response Operations: $144,600,000

The Difference: Instead of 2 big precincts with officers in cars, we deploy through 63 neighborhood mini substations with officers on foot.

What You'll See:

- **63 Mini Substations** – One in EVERY zip code by Year 4
- Officers on foot and bike patrols 24/7
- Visible, accessible, embedded in YOUR neighborhood
- Community meeting spaces
- 24/7 operations with rotating shifts
- Total cost: ~$88M over 4 years ($650K per station annually when fully operational)

- **Rapid Response Capability** – Maintained for 911 calls
- Smart deployment using real-time data
- Body cameras and accountability technology
- Officer safety equipment

- **Community-First Policing**
- Officers know neighborhoods by name
- Build relationships before incidents occur
- Partner with schools, churches, community centers

Mini Substation Deployment Timeline:

- Year 1: 12 substations in highest-crime areas
- Year 2: 12 more substations (24 total)
- Year 3: 12 substations (36 total)
- Year 4: 27 final substations (63 total – every zip code covered)

Investigations & Special Units: $37,800,000

Enhanced with community focus

- **52 Community Detectives** (NEW) – 2 per council district
- Focus on PREVENTING crime, not just solving it
- Build relationships before incidents occur
- Work with youth programs, community centers, churches
- Total cost: $15.6M annually ($300K per detective)

- **Homicide, Robbery, Sexual Assault Units**
- Maintain strong investigative capacity
- Victim support services
- Cold case review

- **Gang Violence Prevention** (not just enforcement)

- Community intervention before escalation
- Partner with youth programs for prevention

- **Domestic Violence Response**
- Enhanced victim services
- Prevention and support programs

Training & Professional Development: $13,000,000

Investment in officer excellence

- De-escalation training (40 hours annually per officer)
- Mental health crisis response certification
- Community policing methods
- Constitutional policing and civil rights
- Implicit bias and cultural competency
- Youth engagement techniques

Technology & Equipment: $16,000,000

21st century tools for community safety

- Real-time crime analysis center
- License plate readers (with privacy protections)
- Crime mapping and predictive analytics
- Officer safety equipment
- Body camera program expansion
- Community notification systems

School Zone Safety Program: $5,000,000 (NEW)

Protecting our children

- Automated speed enforcement cameras (proven to reduce speeds by 50%)
- Enhanced crosswalks with high-visibility markings
- Flashing speed limit signs near schools
- Physical traffic calming (speed bumps, curb extensions)
- Crossing guard program expansion
- Officer presence during drop-off/pickup times
- Safety education programs for students

Louisville Fire Department: $80,000,000

Current spending: $139.5M | **Our plan:** $80M

Emergency Response Operations: $98,000,000

Maintaining excellence in emergency services

- 21 fire stations maintained and staffed
- Rapid response to fires and medical emergencies
- Hazmat response capability
- Technical rescue teams
- Ambulance services coordination

Fire Prevention & Community Education: $19,500,000

PREVENTING fires before they start (NEW expanded focus)

Includes 15 Fire Prevention Centers strategically located:

- Community fire safety education
- Free home safety inspections (especially for seniors)
- Smoke detector installation programs
- Youth fire safety education in schools
- Senior safety outreach and education
- Business fire safety consulting
- Average cost: $900,000 per center (included in this budget)

Additional Prevention Services:

- Building inspections and code enforcement
- Plan review for new construction
- Fire investigation and arson prevention

Training & Professional Development: $9,000,000

- Firefighter training academy
- EMS certification and recertification
- Specialized rescue training

- Leadership development programs

Equipment & Apparatus: $19,000,000

- Fire trucks and emergency vehicles
- Protective equipment for firefighters
- Communications and dispatch systems
- Maintenance and replacement schedules

Administration: $4,500,000

- Department leadership and management
- Planning and compliance
- Community relations

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): $52,000,000

Current spending: $24.2M | **Our plan:** $52M

Ambulance Operations: $19,200,000

Core emergency medical response

- Advanced life support ambulances
- Paramedic staffing and coverage
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Coordination with hospitals

Mental Health Crisis Response Teams: $4,000,000 (EXPANDED)

The right response to mental health emergencies

- Social workers paired with officers for crisis calls
- Mobile crisis units available 24/7
- Follow-up case management and support
- Connection to ongoing mental health services
- Reduces inappropriate arrests and ER visits

Community Paramedic Program: $2,200,000

Preventive care in the community

- Home visits to frequent 911 callers
- Health education and monitoring
- Connection to primary care providers
- Reduces emergency calls through prevention

Training & Equipment: $1,600,000

- Paramedic continuing education
- Mental health crisis training
- Equipment and supply replacement

Codes & Regulations: $17,300,000

Elevated to Public Safety Priority (Current: $1.5M buried in other budgets)

Philosophy: Dangerous buildings, illegal dumping, housing violations – these aren't nuisances, they're public safety threats.

Building Safety Inspections: $5,000,000

- Proactive inspections preventing building collapse and fires
- Rental housing standards enforcement
- Construction oversight and permits
- Emergency demolitions of dangerous structures

Environmental Health: $3,200,000

- Illegal dumping enforcement and cleanup
- Pest control in public areas
- Food safety inspections
- Public health hazard response

Neighborhood Standards: $3,500,000

- Vacant property maintenance enforcement

- Property standards and blight removal
- Neighborhood quality of life protection
- Proactive code enforcement

Rapid Response Team: $1,500,000

- 48-hour response to code violations
- Emergency hazard abatement
- Coordinated enforcement with LMPD and Fire

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: $210,000,000

Philosophy: Strong communities prevent problems before they start.

Parks & Recreation: $45,000,000

Current spending: $42.8M | **Our plan:** $45M

Park Maintenance & Operations: $27,000,000

- 122 parks maintained to high standards
- Clean, safe, accessible spaces for all neighborhoods
- Regular maintenance, not deferred
- Playground equipment safety and updates

Recreation Programs: $13,000,000

- Youth sports leagues (affordable for all families)
- Summer camps and programming
- Senior programs and activities
- Community fitness classes
- After-school programs

Special Facilities: $5,000,000

- Swimming pools operation and maintenance
- Community centers
- Sports complexes

- Special events and festivals

Administration & Planning: $3,000,000

- Park planning and design
- Partnership coordination
- Volunteer program management

Louisville Free Public Library: $27,800,000

Current spending: $27.5M | **Our plan:** $27.8M

Branch Operations: $19,000,000

- 18 library branches serving all neighborhoods
- Extended hours in high-use locations
- Modern collection and technology

Programs & Services: $7,000,000

- Children's literacy programs
- Adult education and ESL classes
- Job search assistance and digital literacy
- Homework help and tutoring
- Community meeting spaces

Technology & Collections: $3,000,000

- Digital resources and databases
- Computer access and WiFi
- Book and media collections

Administration: $1,000,000

Youth Development & Violence Prevention: $55,000,000

Consolidated from scattered programs currently at $15.2M

The Problem: Louisville currently spends ~$15M on youth programs, but they're scattered across 8 different departments with little coordination.

The Solution: Consolidate, coordinate, and massively scale up what works.

After-School & Summer Programs: $22,000,000

Safe spaces during peak crime hours (3pm-7pm)

- Programming in all 6 districts
- Arts, sports, STEM, life skills
- Healthy meals provided
- Transportation assistance
- Partnership with schools and community centers
- 3,000 youth served daily

Youth Employment Program: $12,000,000

3,000 summer jobs for teens

- Minimum wage guaranteed
- Job skills training
- Mentorship component
- Partnership with local businesses
- Pathway to permanent employment

Mentoring & Family Support: $9,000,000

One-on-one intervention for high-risk youth

- Trained mentors matched with youth
- Family case management
- Academic support
- Connection to mental health services
- Trauma-informed approach

Community Violence Interruption: $7,000,000

Street outreach preventing retaliation

- Credible messengers working in high-violence areas

- Mediation and conflict resolution
- Connection to services and opportunities
- 24/7 availability during crisis periods
- Evidence-based Cure Violence model

Youth Mental Health Services: $5,000,000

School-based counseling and support

- Licensed counselors in high-need schools
- Trauma therapy for youth exposed to violence
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Connection to ongoing care

Health & Human Services: $45,000,000

NEW consolidated department for community health

18 Community Wellness Centers: $45,000,000 (NEW)

One-stop health and social services – 3 per district

Each center provides (at $2.5M per center annually):

Primary Care Clinic ($1M per center):

- Nurse practitioners and physician assistants
- Routine medical care and preventive services
- Chronic disease management
- Lab services and basic diagnostics
- Open 6 days/week, extended hours

Mental Health Services ($600K per center):

- Licensed therapists and counselors
- Substance abuse treatment
- Trauma counseling
- Psychiatric medication management
- Group therapy and support programs

Social Services Hub ($500K per center):

- Benefits enrollment assistance (SNAP, Medicaid, housing)
- Job training and placement
- Legal aid connection
- Homeless services coordination
- Family support services

Community Programs ($400K per center):

- Health education classes
- Parenting programs
- Youth activities
- Senior services
- Community meeting space

Why This Works:

- Addresses root causes of crime (poverty, addiction, mental illness)
- Reduces emergency room overuse (saves healthcare system money)
- Creates jobs in underserved neighborhoods
- Every $1 invested saves $5.60 in healthcare costs within 5 years
- Healthcare access reduces violent crime by 5.8% (research-proven)

Locations: Strategically placed in underserved neighborhoods with health deserts, coordinated with mini substations and district councils.

Community Development: $7,000,000

Focused on housing and economic empowerment

Affordable Housing: $4,000,000

- First-time homebuyer assistance
- Rental assistance for working families
- Housing rehabilitation programs
- Homeless prevention

Economic Development: $3,000,000

- Small business grants and loans
- Minority and women-owned business support
- Neighborhood commercial corridor revitalization
- Workforce development programs

INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES: $241,000,000

Philosophy: Basic services done right. Roads that don't have potholes. Trash picked up on time. Water that's safe to drink.

Public Works: $122,000,000

Current spending: $94M | **Our plan:** $122M | **Investment:** $28M increase

Road Maintenance & Repair: $52,000,000

- Pothole repair (48-hour response)
- Street resurfacing program
- Sidewalk repair and ADA compliance
- Traffic signal maintenance
- Pavement preservation

Street Lighting: $15,000,000

- LED conversion (energy efficient, cost savings)
- Dark streets initiative – lighting underserved areas
- Smart lighting with motion sensors
- Maintenance and repair

Snow & Ice Removal: $10,000,000

- Salt and equipment
- 24/7 operations during winter weather
- Priority routes clearly communicated
- Residential street coverage

Traffic Engineering: $10,000,000

- Traffic signal timing optimization
- Pedestrian safety improvements
- Bike lane infrastructure
- Vision Zero initiative for traffic safety

Facilities Maintenance: $20,000,000

- City building upkeep
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Accessibility improvements
- Preventive maintenance

Fleet Management: $10,000,000

- Vehicle maintenance and repair
- Fuel costs
- Vehicle replacement schedule
- Equipment for all departments

Administration: $5,000,000

- Department management
- Engineering and planning
- Project oversight

Solid Waste Management: $38,000,000

Current spending: $35M | **Our plan:** $38M

Residential Collection: $22,000,000

- Weekly trash pickup (every neighborhood)
- Biweekly recycling
- Bulk item collection
- Consistent, reliable service

Recycling Programs: $6,000,000

- Single-stream recycling
- Drop-off centers
- Community education
- Partnership with recyclers

Waste Reduction: $3,000,000

- Composting programs
- Hazardous waste collection
- E-waste recycling
- Zero waste initiatives

Landfill Operations: $5,000,000

- Proper waste disposal
- Environmental compliance
- Methane capture and energy generation

Administration: $2,000,000

Water & Sewer Coordination: $28,000,000

Partnership with Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)

- Stormwater management coordination
- Combined sewer overflow (CSO) reduction
- Green infrastructure projects
- Water quality monitoring
- City’s contribution to MSD partnership

Planning & Zoning: $15,000,000

Current spending: $11M | **Our plan:** $15M

Comprehensive Planning: $6,000,000

- Long-range planning and vision
- Neighborhood plans
- Sustainability planning
- Economic development planning

Zoning & Land Use: $5,000,000

- Zoning review and enforcement
- Variance and rezoning hearings
- Historic preservation review
- Development plan review

GIS & Mapping: $3,000,000

- Geographic information systems
- Data visualization and analysis
- Public-facing mapping tools
- Coordination with other departments

Administration: $1,000,000

Economic Development: $38,000,000

Current spending: $17M | **Our plan:** $38M

Business Attraction & Retention: $18,000,000

- Business recruitment
- Existing business support
- Site selection assistance
- Tax incentive programs

Workforce Development: $12,000,000

- Job training programs
- Apprenticeship support

- Career pathways
- Partnership with employers and educators

Innovation & Entrepreneurship: $5,000,000

- Small business incubators
- Startup support programs
- Technology sector development
- Innovation grants

Administration: $3,000,000

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: $115,000,000

Philosophy: Government closest to the people governs best. You should have a real vote on how your tax dollars are spent.

District Councils & Participatory Budgeting: $15,000,000 (NEW)

26 Metro Council Districts with real budgetary power

Direct Community Spending: $9,000,000

$1,500,000 per district – YOU vote on how it's spent

- Community votes directly on local projects
- Examples: Playground upgrades, street lighting, community gardens, small business grants
- 30-day voting period each year
- Implementation tracked publicly
- Used in 11,500 cities worldwide

District Council Operations: $3,600,000

$600,000 per district council

- Elected neighborhood council (7-9 members per district)
- Monthly public meetings
- Staff support for council operations

- Community engagement and outreach
- Project management and oversight

Community Engagement: $2,400,000

Making participation accessible to everyone

- Language translation services
- Childcare during meetings
- Transportation assistance
- Digital and in-person voting options
- Community organizers in each district
- Education and outreach campaigns

Why This Matters:

- Decisions made by neighbors, not bureaucrats
- Tested in NYC (706+ community-chosen projects), Paris, Boston, and 11,500 cities worldwide
- Increases civic engagement 3-4x in participating neighborhoods
- Your tax dollars, your vote on how they're spent

Digital Democracy Platform: $8,000,000 (NEW)

Real-time transparency and public engagement

Technology Development: $4,000,000

- Public budget dashboard (updated daily)
- Real-time spending tracker
- Department performance metrics
- Mobile app for civic engagement
- Online participatory budgeting system

Data & Transparency: $2,500,000

- Open data portal with all city information
- Contract database (searchable by public)
- 311 request tracking (see status in real-time)

- Crime statistics dashboard
- Department scorecards and accountability metrics

Community Engagement Tools: $1,500,000

- Online town halls and feedback
- Neighborhood-specific information
- Multi-language accessibility
- SMS notification system for updates
- Digital suggestion box with public responses

The Promise: You’ll know where every dollar goes, how every department performs, and you’ll have a voice in decisions.

Mayor’s Office: $10,000,000

Reduced from $12.4M (saving $2.4M)

Streamlined, servant-leadership approach

Executive Leadership: $4,500,000

- Mayor and chief of staff
- Deputy mayors (reduced from 6 to 3)
- Executive assistants
- Policy advisors

Community Relations: $2,500,000

- Neighborhood liaisons
- Community outreach
- Public events and engagement
- Constituent services (311 coordination)

Communications: $2,000,000

- Press office and media relations
- Social media and digital communications
- Public information and transparency

- Translation services

Operations: $1,000,000

- Office operations and supplies
- Travel and professional development
- Special projects and initiatives

What Changed: Cut bureaucracy, increased community connection. More neighborhood liaisons, fewer deputy mayors.

Metro Council Support: $8,000,000

Current spending: $5.8M | **Our plan:** $8M

Council Operations: $4,500,000

- 26 Metro Council members
- Council staff and support
- Committee operations
- Legislative research

Independent Budget Analysis: $2,000,000

- Professional budget analysts working FOR the Council
- Independent review of mayor's proposals
- Fiscal impact analysis
- Performance auditing

Civic Engagement: $1,500,000

- Public hearings and meetings
- Constituent services
- Community outreach
- Transparency and accessibility

Law Department: $18,000,000

Current spending: $14.5M | **Our plan:** $18M

- Legal representation for city government
- Contract review and negotiation
- Litigation management
- Legal advice to all departments
- Civil rights compliance

Finance & Treasury: $28,000,000

Current spending: $24M | **Our plan:** $28M

Financial Management: $17,000,000

- Accounting and financial reporting
- Budget preparation and monitoring
- Revenue collection
- Payroll processing

Treasury Operations: $7,000,000

- Cash management
- Debt management
- Investment oversight
- Banking relationships

Auditing & Compliance: $4,000,000

- Internal auditing
- Compliance monitoring
- Financial controls
- External audit coordination

Human Resources: $15,000,000

Current spending: $11.5M | **Our plan:** $15M

- Employee recruitment and hiring
- Benefits administration
- Labor relations and union negotiations
- Training and professional development
- Employee wellness programs
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives

Information Technology: $13,000,000

Current spending: $19M | **Our plan:** $13M (efficiency gains through consolidation)

Technology Infrastructure: $7,000,000

- Network and systems maintenance
- Cybersecurity and data protection
- Hardware and software
- Cloud services and hosting

Application Development: $4,000,000

- Custom software for city operations
- Digital service delivery
- Integration and automation
- Public-facing applications

Support Services: $2,000,000

- Help desk and technical support
- End-user training
- Vendor management
- IT project management

EMPLOYEE RAISES (4-YEAR PACKAGE): $136,600,000

Philosophy: You can't deliver excellent city services with underpaid, overworked employees.

Year 1 Raises: $27,400,000

7% across-the-board raise for all city employees

- Police/Fire/EMS: $15,000,000
- Public Works: $3,500,000
- Parks/Library: $5,200,000
- All Other Departments: $3,700,000

Years 2-4 Raises: $109,200,000 total

5% annual raises in Years 2, 3, and 4 (compounding to 24% total over 4 years)

- Year 2: $28,800,000 (5% on new base after Year 1)
- Year 3: $39,200,000 (5% on new base after Year 2)
- Year 4: $41,200,000 (5% on new base after Year 3)

Why This Matters:

- Reduces turnover by 35-50%
- Attracts and retains better talent
- Improves morale and service quality
- Makes Louisville competitive with surrounding counties
- Saves money long-term (training new employees costs $5,000-$15,000 each)

SUPPORT SERVICES: $127,200,000

The unglamorous but essential budget items

Property Management: $10,000,000

- City-owned building maintenance
- Real estate management
- Lease negotiations
- Space planning and allocation

Purchasing & Procurement: $8,000,000

- Centralized purchasing
- Vendor management
- Contract administration
- Surplus property disposal

Risk Management: $6,000,000

- Insurance coverage for city operations
- Claims management
- Safety programs
- Risk assessment and mitigation

Other Support Services: $103,200,000

Debt Service: $52,000,000

- Bond payments on existing city debt
- Interest on long-term obligations
- Required by law

Pension Contributions: $34,000,000

- City’s contribution to employee retirement funds
- Required by contract and law

Rainy Day Fund / Emergency Contingency: $12,000,000

- Emergency reserve for unexpected events
- Natural disasters, economic downturn
- Fiscal responsibility and stability

Miscellaneous: $5,200,000

- Unallocated contingency
- Small projects and initiatives
- Budget adjustments during the year

THE TRANSFORMATION IN NUMBERS

What’s DIFFERENT (Not What’s NEW)

We’re not creating new programs out of thin air. We’re **transforming how Louisville uses existing resources**.

2 big police precincts, officers in cars	63 mini substations, officers on foot	$144.6M patrol budget
Administrative bloat at LMPD headquarters	Community policing and prevention	$245.9M (vs $211.6M current)
Fire department only fights fires	Fire prevention centers prevent fires	$19.5M prevention
Youth programs scattered across 8 departments	Consolidated $55M violence prevention	3.6x current investment
No community wellness centers	18 wellness centers (3 per district)	$45M
Bureaucrats decide spending priorities	YOU vote on $577K per district	$15M participatory
Budget is 200-page mystery	Real-time dashboard you can access	Transparency
Mayor’s office: 6 deputy mayors	Mayor’s office: 3 deputy mayors, more neighborhood liaisons	Save $2.4M

FUNDING SOURCES

Where does Louisville's $1.2B come from?

This budget proposal assumes **the same revenue sources as the current budget**:

- **Occupational License Tax:** ~$425M (1.45% city, 0.75% county services)
- **Property Taxes:** ~$240M
- **Insurance Premium Tax:** ~$187M
- **Intergovernmental Revenue:** ~$160M (state and federal grants)
- **Fees and Charges:** ~$107M (permits, licenses, service fees)
- **Other Revenue:** ~$81M (fines, interest, miscellaneous)

Total: $1,200,000,000

No tax increases. No new revenue sources. Just different priorities.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

YEAR 1 (Months 1-12)

Immediate Actions:

- Establish participatory budgeting system for 26 Metro Council districts (first cycle in Month 3)
- Launch Digital Democracy Platform (Month 2)
- Implement 7% employee raises (Day 1)
- Begin LMPD reorganization

First Deployments:

- 12 mini substations in highest-crime areas (operational by Month 10)
- 6 community wellness centers (strategically placed)
- Participatory budgeting process for Year 2 budget (voting in Month 9)
- 5 fire prevention centers in high-risk areas

Youth Programs:

- Consolidate scattered programs into unified Youth Development department (Month 1)
- Launch expanded after-school programs (Month 3, start of school year)
- Summer jobs program for 3,000 teens (Month 6)

YEAR 2 (Months 13-24)

- 12 more mini substations (24 total)
- 6 more wellness centers (12 total)
- 5 more fire prevention centers (10 total)
- Second round of participatory budgeting ($9M in community projects)
- Full implementation of youth violence prevention programs
- 5% employee raises

YEAR 3 (Months 25-36)

- 12 mini substations (36 total)
- 6 more wellness centers (18 total – COMPLETE)
- 5 more fire prevention centers (15 total)
- Evaluation and refinement based on data
- 5% employee raises

YEAR 4 (Months 37-48)

- Final 27 mini substations (63 total – every zip code)
- Full implementation of all programs
- Four-year evaluation and community feedback for next budget cycle
- 5% employee raises

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Real-Time Metrics (Updated Daily on Public Dashboard)

Public Safety:

- Crime rates by neighborhood
- Police response times

- Use of force incidents
- Community trust scores (quarterly surveys)
- Mini substation foot patrol hours

Community Health:

- Wellness center visits per capita
- Reduction in ER usage for primary care
- Youth program participation rates
- Mental health service access

Democratic Engagement:

- Participatory budget participation rates
- District council meeting attendance
- Digital platform usage statistics
- Resident satisfaction scores (quarterly)

Government Efficiency:

- Budget variance (planned vs. actual spending)
- Project completion rates and timelines
- 311 response times
- Employee satisfaction scores

Independent Oversight

- Metro Council’s Independent Budget Analysis office
- Annual performance audits by external auditors
- Quarterly public reports to District Councils
- Community scorecards for each department

Public Access

- Every dollar spent published in real-time
- All contracts searchable online
- Department performance metrics public
- Monthly “Office Hours” in each district where you can ask the mayor anything

COMPARISON TO CURRENT BUDGET

Where We're CUTTING:

Mayor's Office	$12,400,000	$10,000,000	**-$2,400,000**
Information Technology (consolidation)	$19,000,000	$13,000,000	**-$6,000,000**
Administrative Redundancy	$15,000,000	$0	**-$15,000,000**
TOTAL CUTS	—	—	**-$23,400,000**

Where We're INVESTING:

LMPD Patrol & Community Policing	~$129,000,000	$144,600,000	**+$15,600,000**
Fire Prevention	$3,000,000	$19,500,000	**+$16,500,000**
Youth Development	$15,200,000 scattered	$55,000,000 consolidated	**+$39,800,000**
Community Wellness Centers	$0	$45,000,000	**+$45,000,000**
District Councils & Participatory Budgeting	$0	$15,000,000	**+$15,000,000**
Digital Democracy Platform	$0	$8,000,000	**+$8,000,000**
Codes as Public Safety	$1,500,000	$13,200,000	**+$11,700,000**
Employee Raises (Year 1)	$12,000,000	$27,400,000	**+$15,400,000**

Public Works	$94,000,000	$122,000,000	**+$28,000,000**

The Math Works Because:

We’re reallocating within the existing $1.2B budget:

1. **Direct Cuts:** $23.4M from bureaucracy and consolidation
2. **Program Consolidation:** Youth programs currently scattered at $15.2M → centralized at $55M (many programs already exist, just fragmented and inefficient)
3. **Priority Shifts:** Moving money from reactive spending (administration, overhead) to preventive programs (community policing, youth programs, health services)
4. **Revenue-Neutral:** Same total budget as current administration

Total Budget: Unchanged at $1,200,000,000 ✓

WHY THIS BUDGET WORKS

It’s Based on Evidence

Crime Reduction:

- Boston reduced youth homicides 63% through community-based prevention (Operation Ceasefire, 1996-2000)
- Los Angeles reduced violent crime 18% in areas with prevention programs (GRYD, 2011-2018)
- Newark reduced shooting victims 35% and homicides 55% through community partnerships (2013-2022)

Healthcare ROI:

- Every $1 in preventive healthcare saves $5.60 in healthcare costs within 5 years
- Healthcare access reduces violent crime by 5.8% (Medicaid expansion studies)
- Mental health treatment saves $4-5 in emergency services and criminal justice costs per $1 invested

Youth Programs:

- Every $1 invested in evidence-based youth programs saves $7 in criminal justice costs
- After-school programs reduce youth crime by 20-30% during peak hours (3pm-7pm)

Participatory Budgeting:

- Used in 11,500 cities worldwide
- Increases civic engagement 3-4x in participating neighborhoods
- NYC has funded 706+ community-chosen projects since 2011

It's Realistic

- 4-year implementation timeline
- Phased rollout starting with highest-need areas
- Built on existing city infrastructure where possible
- Realistic cost estimates based on comparable programs
- Contingency funding for unexpected challenges

It's Accountable

- Real-time public dashboard with all spending
- Quarterly reports to District Councils
- Independent audits and oversight
- Community scorecards for every department
- Your vote on $577K per district in spending

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How is this the same budget amount if you're adding so many programs?

A: We're not adding as much as we're **reallocating**. Many of these "new" programs already exist in fragmented form across multiple departments. For example:

- Youth programs: Currently $15.2M scattered across 8 departments → Consolidated to $55M with efficiency gains
- Police: Currently $211.6M heavy on admin → $215M heavy on patrol (more officers in neighborhoods)
- The $23.4M in bureaucracy cuts funds the genuinely new programs (wellness centers, district councils, etc.)

Q: Will this require cooperation from department heads?

A: The Mayor sets the budget. Department heads implement it. If a department's budget is set at a specific amount, they operate within that. That's how budgetary authority works.

Q: What if revenues decline?

A: We maintain a $12M rainy day fund for exactly this scenario. Additionally, the District Councils' $9M in participatory spending could be reduced or delayed in a severe revenue shortfall. Core services (police, fire, trash, roads) would be protected.

Q: Is one mini substation per zip code enough?

A: It's a starting point. Some zip codes may eventually need 2-3 substations as the program proves successful. Year 4 evaluation will guide future expansion using community feedback and crime data.

Q: How will you staff 18 wellness centers?

A: Partnership with existing healthcare systems (Norton Healthcare, UofL Health, Federally Qualified Health Centers). Many will be co-located with existing facilities. We provide funding; they provide clinical expertise and staffing pipelines.

Q: Won't police union resist the changes?

A: We're not cutting police funding – we're increasing patrol by $15.6M. We're not laying off any officers. We're moving them from desk jobs to community policing roles most officers prefer. Proactive union engagement (not confrontation) is part of implementation strategy.

Q: Why participatory budgeting instead of just doing what's needed?

A: Because neighborhoods know their needs better than bureaucrats. A playground in one neighborhood, street lighting in another, small business grants in a third – these decisions are better made by residents than by politicians. It's called democracy.

THE CHOICE LOUISVILLE FACES

Current administration's Approach:

✗ Bureaucracy over community investment
✗ Reactive policing from big precincts
✗ Decisions made behind closed doors
✗ Youth programs fragmented and underfunded
✗ No community health infrastructure
✗ Status quo that's not working

Our Approach:

✓ $115M in democratic governance and community power
✓ Preventive policing from 63 neighborhood substations
✓ You vote on $577K per district in spending
✓ $55M consolidated youth violence prevention
✓ 18 community wellness centers addressing root causes
✓ Transformation that evidence shows works

The Cost:

Exactly the same: $1,200,000,000

The difference is **where every dollar goes** and **who decides**.

CONCLUSION

This budget is not a wish list. It's a **blueprint for transformation** using the exact same resources Louisville already has.

Same money. Different priorities. Better Louisville.

Every number in this budget is defensible. Every program is evidence-based. Every promise is funded.

We're not asking Louisville to spend more. We're asking Louisville to spend **smarter**.

The question isn't whether we can afford this budget.

The question is: **Can we afford NOT to make this change?**

Prepared by: Dave Biggers for Mayor Campaign
Date: October 2025
Contact: dave@rundaverun.org
Website: rundaverun.org

This is how we build a Louisville that works for everyone.

Calculate Your Tax Impact

See how Dave’s budget plan affects your family:

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

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.