Campaign One-Pager: A Budget for People, Not Politics

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DAVE BIGGERS FOR MAYOR

A Budget for People, Not Politics

Total Budget: $1.13 billion
(Same as Louisville Metro's current approved budget)

The Difference: Not how much we spend. HOW we spend it.

THE 30-SECOND PITCH

Old way: Traditional policing after crime happens.
Our way: Police IN neighborhoods, prevention BEFORE crime starts.

Old way: Modest raises, bloated bureaucracy.
Our way: Real raises (17.8% for employees with no contract), lean administration.

Old way: Top-down decisions.
Our way: YOU help decide neighborhood priorities.

Same total cost. Revolutionary results.

FOUR BIG TRANSFORMATIONS

SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH PREVENTION

63 MINI POLICE SUBSTATIONS – One in your neighborhood

- Officers walking YOUR streets, not just driving through
- 24/7 presence in every zip code
- Community meeting spaces
- Build trust, prevent crime before it happens
- **Rolling 4-year deployment** – 12 stations Year 1, all 63 by Year 4
- **Evidence:** A research review finds community policing improves residents' satisfaction and trust in police and lowers perceived disorder, with limited effects on crime (Gill et al. 2014, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*). My target is a 20-30% crime reduction around substations.

18 COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTERS – Real healthcare in your neighborhood

- Primary care, mental health, addiction treatment – all in one place
- Stop sending police to every mental health crisis
- Address the ROOT CAUSES of crime and disorder
- **Phased over 3 years** – 6 centers per year
- **Cost:** $45M fully implemented
- **Return:** $5.60 saved for every $1 spent, through fewer ER visits and better health

ENHANCED YOUTH PROGRAMS – $32.5 Million

- After-school programs during peak crime hours (3-7pm)
- Summer jobs for teens: you get paid and you get experience
- Early childhood education, library youth programs and school support with JCPS
- **Evidence:** Youth employment reduces crime by 35%

FIRE PREVENTION CENTERS – $2.2 Million

- Teach safety BEFORE disasters strike
- Free home inspections, smoke detector programs
- Reduce home fires through prevention

Paid for inside Louisville Fire, which stays flat at its adopted $85,520,300: half of Fire's unscheduled overtime, $1.37M, starts the program in Year 1, and the rest of the $2.2M is added only as Fire's own overtime-and-staffing review shows money that can move

without taking an engine out of service.

BETTER PAY FOR BETTER SERVICE

Employee Compensation Investment: $16.9 Million in Year 1, $93.8 Million over 4 years

Louisville Metro employees deserve competitive pay.

THE DIFFERENCE:

- **Current:** a 2% cost-of-living raise for non-union employees (Louisville Metro adopted budget FY2026-27)
- **Our Plan:** Raises of 11%, 3% and 3% for non-union employees; union raises through their contracts

WHY IT MATTERS:
✓ Attract top talent to serve Louisville
✓ Reduce turnover and training costs
✓ Better employee morale = better public service
✓ Competitive with private sector and surrounding communities

HOW WE PAY FOR IT:

The raises are paid from a $27.4M-a-year raise pool (they cost $16.9M in Year 1 and $27.4M a year from Year 3). The pool is held as one until a pay plan sets each department's share: $19.2M of it is money Metro already spends (the platform's administration and efficiency savings), and $8.2M comes from revenue enhancements.

No new taxes. No deficit spending. Just valuing our people.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OVER BUREAUCRACY

Same total, every dollar placed. The plan spends exactly Metro's adopted FY2026-27 operating budget, $1,125,931,500. A published reallocation ledger shows every department's adopted budget beside its budget under this plan, and the two columns add to the same total, to the dollar.

- **My five priorities come first, funded in full:** raises for Metro's non-union

employees, Public Safety & Community Policing, the $15M participatory budget, Education & Youth Development, and Neighborhood Development. Together they ask $214.71M a year of Metro money. $206.51M of it is money Metro already spends; the other $8.2M of the raises comes from revenue enhancements (license compliance, delinquency collection, parking and non-resident fees).

- **Most of it is paid inside the departments that do the work,** by changing what they already spend money on. Money moves between departments only from sources the platform names or I have chosen: the smaller jail, the administration and duplication savings, the efficiency savings, $1M from juvenile detention, and Thrive by Five's Metro money.
- **Also funded in full:** Senior Services, Disability Rights & Accessibility, Arts, Culture & Tourism, and Technology & Innovation.
- **Partly funded, and growing:** Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Justice & Climate Action, and Economic Development & Jobs start with what their departments can carry, and grow with outside money and with jail savings once those savings are proven.
- **Phased:** Public Health & Wellness and Food Systems & Urban Agriculture launch on their own non-Metro funding. Metro adds its share as the jail savings prove out.
- **The named gap:** about $20M of Health & Human Services programmes, mainly crisis stabilization centres, clinician-and-peer mobile crisis units and addiction treatment, has no Metro funding yet. The crisis teams that pair a social worker with an officer are funded, inside LMPD.
- **Police stay flat.** LMPD's plan is $260.4M because the $8M police-oversight programme moves to the independent Office of Inspector General, so oversight sits outside the department it oversees. That is not a police cut. The flat figure is before the raises officers win in their own contract.
- **The back-office claim is about $21M,** not the $39M first stated: that is what can actually be placed, department by department.
- **Outside the operating budget:** Affordable Housing asks no Metro operating money (abatement reform, fees and federal funds), and Infrastructure's $35M is a shift inside the separate capital budget.
- **The biggest bet is the jail.** The $36.5M only appears if bail reform and diversion shrink the jail population, so it is the first number the administration will report on.

Same budget. Better priorities.

YOUR VOICE, YOUR PRIORITIES

Democratic Governance: $15 Million

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

- YOU help decide how to spend money in your neighborhood
- Community meetings, democratic voting
- $15M across all districts (roughly $577K per district)
- **Evidence:** Cities around the world use participatory budgeting.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Every dollar tracked online
- Regular community reports
- Open budget workshops
- Real-time budget dashboard

THE NUMBERS ADD UP

CATEGORY	ADOPTED FY2026-27	OUR PLAN	% OF BUDGET (PLAN)
Public Safety	$528,287,900	$492,545,450	43.7%
Community Investment	$295,474,500	$323,746,150	28.8%
Infrastructure & Services	$151,112,400	$139,112,400	12.4%
Democratic Governance	$52,028,000	$73,588,000	6.5%
Support Services (includes the $19.2M employee raise pool, held in OMB until a pay plan splits it by department)	$99,028,700	$96,939,500	8.6%
TOTAL	**$1,125,931,500**	**$1,125,931,500**	**100%**

Public Safety's departments carry less because the jail shrinks and police oversight moves to the Inspector General (in Democratic Governance); the 18 wellness centres, a public-safety priority, are paid through Public Health (in Community Investment). Democratic Governance grows because the $15M participatory budget runs through Metro Council's 26 districts and police oversight moves to the Inspector General.

WHY THIS WORKS: THE EVIDENCE

Mini Police Substations and community policing:

- Boston Operation Ceasefire: 63% fewer young homicide victims (ages 24 and under) per month after Operation Ceasefire began in 1996 (Kennedy, Braga, Piehl & Waring 2001, National Institute of Justice)
- Oakland Ceasefire: an estimated 31.5% drop in gun homicides; only 2 of 12 comparison California cities saw a significant decline (Braga et al. 2019, Northeastern University)

Community Wellness Centers:

- **Every $1 invested in community wellness centers returns $5.60**

Youth Employment Programs:

- Chicago summer jobs (randomized trial, *Science* 2014): 43% fewer violent-crime arrests among participants

Participatory Budgeting:

- New York City: residents vote directly on community projects funded through participatory budgeting

Competitive Employee Pay:

- Competitive pay helps Metro keep experienced employees and spend less on turnover and training
- **Better pay = better talent = better services**

Sources for every figure above are in the Research Bibliography.

HOW WE PAY FOR IT: THE MATH

Money that moves between departments (every dollar from a named source; which source pays for which priority is shown for clarity, because the money is pooled):

From	Amount	Named source	Goes to
Department of Corrections	$26,742,450	A smaller jail: bail reform and diversion (the jail shrinks by $36,500,000; $9,757,550 of that stays in Corrections for pretrial services and diversion)	Wellness centres $20,512,450 · participatory budget $6,230,000
Office of Management & Budget	$14,000,000	Administration waste cut	Employee raise pool $12,500,000 · participatory budget $1,500,000
Facilities & Fleet Management	$12,000,000	Efficiency: procurement, technology, operations	Employee raise pool $6,700,000 · participatory budget $5,300,000
Louisville Metro Police Department	$8,000,000	Police oversight moved out so it is independent (paid from LMPD’s own patrol and overtime savings)	Office of Inspector General $8,000,000
Metro Technology Services	$7,289,200	Bureaucratic duplication eliminated	Neighborhood Development $6,759,200 · participatory budget $530,000
Office of Strategic Initiatives	$1,997,100	Thrive by Five’s Metro money (its state-required share stays)	School-based childcare through the library $1,997,100
Louisville Free Public Library	$1,688,700	Room freed by Thrive by Five’s money	Disability rights in Social Services $1,688,700
Youth Transitional Services	$1,000,000	Juvenile detention	Youth programmes through the library $1,000,000
TOTAL	**$72,717,450**		

A further $205.4M is re-pointed inside the departments that deliver each policy and programme. Police are the largest example: LMPD moves 378 officers from patrol into 63 substations, with $64.26M of their existing pay (about $170,000 each before overtime), cuts half of unscheduled overtime and leaves $20.7M of patrol posts unfilled as officers leave, which frees $96.01M; $88.01M of it pays for substations and co-responders inside LMPD and $8M funds independent oversight.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **Same total budget** as current approved budget ($1.13 billion)
- **No new taxes** required
- **No deficit spending**
- **Maintains city reserves** at required levels
- **Honors all union contracts** (raises are additional)
- **No employee layoffs** – just reassignments and better pay
- **Phased implementation** – sustainable over 4 years

Every promise. Every program. Every dollar.

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

Year 1 (FY2027-28):

- 12 mini substations operational
- 6 community wellness centers open
- First participatory budgeting cycle
- Employee raises implemented immediately
- Enhanced youth summer jobs program: paid jobs for teens

Year 2 (FY2028-29):

- 24 total mini substations (12 more)
- 12 total wellness centers (6 more)
- Expand after-school programs citywide
- Second participatory budgeting cycle
- Continued employee pay improvements

Year 3 (FY2029-30):

- 36 total mini substations (12 more)
- 18 total wellness centers (6 more – COMPLETE)
- Fire prevention centers open in fire stations
- Third participatory budgeting cycle

Year 4 (FY2030-31):

- All 63 mini substations operational (27 more – COMPLETE)
- All programs at full implementation
- Fourth participatory budgeting cycle
- Measure and report outcomes

By 2029: Louisville leads the nation in community-focused governance.

REAL PEOPLE, REAL IMPACT

For Families:

- Police you know walking your block
- Healthcare when you need it, close to home
- Safe after-school programs for your kids
- Better-maintained parks and libraries

For Employees:

- Competitive pay (17.8% raises for non-union employees)
- Better benefits
- More respect for public service
- Clear career advancement paths

For Neighborhoods:

- You decide local priorities
- Transparent budgets
- Responsive government
- Safer streets

For Louisville:

- Lower crime rates
- Better health outcomes
- Stronger communities

1. Brighter future

OUR VISION FOR LOUISVILLE

Same Total Budget. Completely Different Priorities.

Community-driven. Not top-down.
Preventive. Not reactive.
Efficient. Not bureaucratic.

17.8% raises for employees with no contract. Not 2%.
Neighborhood policing. Not distant precincts.
Your voice matters. Not just elected officials decide.

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

GET INVOLVED

Website: rundaverun.org
Email: dave@rundaverun.org
Social: @davebiggers

Volunteer: We need you to knock doors, make calls, spread the word.
Donate: Every dollar helps us compete with big money politics.
Vote: Election Day 2026 – Let's transform Louisville together.

DAVE BIGGERS FOR MAYOR
Better Louisville. Better Future.

Version 3.0 | Updated October 2025 | www.rundaverun.org

Calculate Your Tax Impact

See how my budget plan affects your family:

How Does My 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 $1.13B 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 mini substations across Louisville, at least one in every ZIP code, phased in over 4 years.

Part of my comprehensive public safety plan.

See the Budget Impact

Explore how this policy fits into my comprehensive $1.13 billion budget plan:

How Does My 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 $1.13B budget - zero tax increase.

Share your results with friends and family:

Share My Results

Compare This Policy

See how my approach differs from current administration policies:

⚖ My Plan, Category by Category

Pick a category to see what my plan does, how it is paid for, and when it arrives.

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

Public Safety & Policing

My Plan

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 Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Projected response times: 3-5 minutes (campaign estimate)

Mental Health & Wellness

My Plan

Wellness centers placed by health need

Approach

- I will place 18 Community Wellness Centers by health need (CDC PLACES 2024 plus Census poverty data)
- Mental health counseling, addiction support
- Youth programs, family services
- At least one center in every LMPD division

Timeline 6 centers a year over Years 1-3
Budget $45M a year when fully built (18 centers at $2.5M each), inside the adopted budget
Impact Accessible care within every neighborhood, preventative focus

Youth Development

My Plan

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 $32.5M for youth programs, inside the adopted budget
Impact Accessible programs in every neighborhood

Economic Development

My Plan

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 Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Jobs and wealth stay in neighborhoods

Housing & Affordability

My Plan

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 Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Protects residents, prevents displacement

Government Transparency

My Plan

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

Share This Policy

Help spread the word about my vision for Louisville:

Related Policies You Might Like

How to Vote for Me

I am a write-in candidate: in the race for Mayor, mark the write-in spot and write **DAVE BIGGERS** (the last name, Biggers, is required).

Early voting, no excuse needed: October 29–31 · Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 6 AM to 6 PM. Registration for the November 3 election closed October 5.

✓ Check My Registration and Polling Place View All Election Dates →

Stay Updated on This Policy

Get notified when this policy is updated or when I speak 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

We use your details only to reach you about the campaign. Privacy Policy

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.