OUR PLAN FOR LOUISVILLE

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Category: Campaign Materials

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A Budget That Works for Everyone

Total Budget: $1,125,931,500 — Metro's FY2026-27 adopted operating budget

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THE VISION

Louisville deserves a budget that invests in people, prevention, and community power. We can afford it. We just need to spend smarter.

Three Main Pillars:

1. □ Neighborhood policing & prevention
2. □ Competitive employee pay (17.8% raises for non-union employees)
3. □ Community programs that work

Plus Your Voice in the Process:
□ **$15M Participatory Budgeting** – YOU help decide neighborhood spending

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1. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Mini Police Substations: At Least One in Every ZIP Code

What: Officers based in YOUR neighborhood, not downtown

Why: Crime prevention through community trust
Target: a 20-30% crime reduction around substations
Timeline: Year 1: 12 stations → Year 4: All 63 operational

How it works:

- Officers walk your block daily
- 24/7 neighborhood presence
- Community meeting space
- Know residents by name
- Build trust, prevent crime

18 Community Wellness Centers

What: Healthcare in your neighborhood
Why: Address root causes of crime
Services: Primary care + mental health + addiction treatment
Cost: $45M a year when fully built ($5.60 saved for every $1 spent)
Timeline: 6 centers per year for 3 years

Impact:

- Walk to healthcare, don't wait for crisis
- Mental health treatment, not jail
- Address addiction with care
- Keep families healthy

$32.5M Youth Programs

What: Education & Youth Development (Policy 06)
Why: Prevent crime at the source

Programs:

- After-school (3-7pm when crime peaks): $12M
- Paid summer jobs and internships for teens: $8M
- Early childhood education: $5M
- Year-round schooling pilot: $4M
- Library youth programs: $2M
- School support partnerships with JCPS: $1M
- Fair school funding advocacy in Frankfort: $0.5M

Evidence: Youth employment reduces crime 35%

$2.2M Fire Prevention

What: Teach safety before disasters
Why: Prevent fires, save lives

Services:

- Free home inspections
- Smoke detector programs
- Public safety education
- Community workshops

Goal: fewer home fires

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.

$5M School Zone Safety Program

What: Protect children around schools
Why: Speed reduction saves lives

Programs:

- Automated speed enforcement cameras, once Frankfort allows them: Kentucky law does not yet permit them in school zones, and we will ask the General Assembly to change that
- 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

Evidence: A Cochrane review of 35 studies found speed cameras cut crashes near camera sites by 8% to 49% (the studies cover speed cameras in general, not school zones only)

How we pay for it: $5M a year re-pointed inside Public Works' street-safety budget. Crossing guards and officers at drop-off and pickup are already LMPD's job; mini-substation officers add

to them.

Community Detectives: 52 Positions — $8.8M

What: Prevention-focused detectives embedded in every council district
Why: Build relationships and gather intelligence to prevent crime before it happens

Details:

- 2 detectives per council district (26 districts × 2 = 52 positions)
- Focus on community relationship building and prevention
- Work closely with mini substation officers
- Annual cost: $8.8M (about $170,000 each before overtime), inside LMPD's own budget — detectives LMPD already employs, reassigned to the districts, not new hires

18 Mental Health Crisis Teams — $8M

What: Social worker or therapist + officer pairs responding to mental health calls
Why: Mental health crises need mental health professionals, not just police

Details:

- 18 teams, one based at each wellness center, covering all of Louisville
- Social worker leads interaction, officer provides safety backup
- 8am to midnight at first, the peak crisis hours, growing to 24/7 for mental health and substance abuse crises
- Annual cost: $8M, paid inside LMPD's own budget (the officers come from patrol)

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2. BETTER PAY: $16.9M IN YEAR 1, $93.8M OVER 4 YEARS

Why It Matters

The Problem:

- Louisville loses experienced employees to surrounding counties
- High turnover costs millions in training
- Lower pay = lower quality service

Our Solution:

- **Raises of 11%, 3% and 3%** for employees with no union contract, 17.8% over three years; union members' raises come through their contracts
- $16.9M in Year 1 ($93.8M over 4 years); the full package for every Metro employee is one of our long-term goals
- Competitive with private sector
- Retain experienced talent

Where It Goes

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.

The Impact

For Employees:

- Non-union employees' pay goes up 11%, then 3%, then 3%

For Louisville:

- Lower turnover
- Better service quality
- Experienced workforce
- Long-term savings

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3. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Youth Development: $32.5M

- Seven programs in one plan (Policy 06)
- Clear accountability
- Evidence-based approaches
- Measurable outcomes

Paid for with $23.5M of Metro General Fund money, $6M in federal grants, $2M reallocated from programs that aren't working and $1M from employer partners.

Wellness Centers: $45M

- 18 neighborhood locations
- Comprehensive care
- Walk-in access
- Preventive focus

Parks & Recreation: $40,796,700 (flat; $14M of it is re-pointed to after-school programmes and public art in parks)

- Enhanced facilities
- More programming
- Better-paid staff
- Community hubs

Library System: $31,399,100 (it takes on youth jobs, after-school and school-based childcare)

- Modern technology
- More programs
- Community access

Community Development: $53.4M

- Street outreach
- Conflict mediation
- Trauma support
- Community-based programs

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4. YOUR VOICE: $15M

Participatory Budgeting (26 Council Districts)

What it is:

- YOU help decide neighborhood spending
- About $577,000 per council district, for residents to spend however they see fit
- Community proposals

- Democratic voting
- Metro implements winning projects

How it works:

1. Community brainstorms ideas
2. Proposals developed with city staff
3. Community votes on priorities
4. Top projects get funded
5. Metro implements and reports

Why it matters:

- Cities around the world use this
- Better projects (community-designed)

Examples from other cities:

- New playgrounds in high-need areas
- Street lighting improvements
- Community gardens
- Small business support
- Public art installations

HOW WE PAY FOR IT

No New Taxes. No Deficit Spending.

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.

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

From	Amount	Named source	Goes to
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.

DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

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.

EVIDENCE IT WORKS

Mini Police Substations

Evidence: Boston's Operation Ceasefire (63% fewer young homicide victims, ages 24 and under, per month after it began in 1996; Kennedy, Braga, Piehl & Waring 2001, National Institute of Justice), Oakland's Ceasefire program (an estimated 31.5% drop in gun homicides, with only 2 of 12 comparison California cities seeing a significant decline; Braga et al. 2019, Northeastern University)
Why it works: Daily contact builds relationships, officers become part of community

Community Wellness Centers

Evidence: every $1 invested in community wellness centers returns $5.60
Why it works: Address health issues before they become crises

Youth Employment Programs

Evidence: Chicago summer jobs, a randomized trial published in *Science* (2014): 43% fewer violent-crime arrests among participants
Why it works: Teens with jobs don't have time for crime

Participatory Budgeting

Evidence: New York City runs participatory budgeting, where residents vote on community projects
Why it works: Community knows what community needs

Competitive Employee Pay

Why it works: Better pay attracts better talent, reduces costly turnover

Sources: Research Bibliography.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

 Same total budget as current approved budget
 No new taxes on residents
 No deficit spending
 City reserves maintained
 All union contracts honored
 No employee layoffs
 Phased implementation over 4 years
 Every dollar accounted for

We’re not promising magic. We’re promising better priorities.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Year 1 (FY2027-28)

✓ Employee raises: Implemented immediately
✓ Mini substations: 12 operational
✓ Wellness centers: 6 open
✓ Youth summer jobs: teens get paid and get experience
✓ Participatory budgeting: First cycle complete

Year 2 (FY2028-29)

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

Year 3 (FY2029-30)

✓ Mini substations: 36 total (12 more)
✓ Wellness centers: 18 total (6 more) – COMPLETE
✓ Fire prevention: centers open in fire stations, growing as Fire’s savings are proven
✓ Participatory budgeting: Third cycle

Year 4 (FY2030-31)

✓ Mini substations: At least one in every ZIP code – COMPLETE
✓ All programs: Full implementation
✓ Measure outcomes, adjust, improve

✓ Participatory budgeting: Fourth cycle

ACCOUNTABILITY

Public Dashboard

- Every dollar tracked online
- Real-time budget reports
- Program outcomes measured
- Community feedback integrated

Quarterly Reports

- Performance vs. goals
- Budget vs. actual
- Service quality metrics
- Public presentations

Annual Independent Audit

- Financial audit
- Program effectiveness
- Public Metro Council presentation
- Recommendations implemented

Community Access

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

Transparency builds trust. We commit to radical transparency.

WHO THIS HELPS

For Families

- Police you know in your neighborhood
- Healthcare close to home
- Safe programs for your kids
- Better parks and libraries
- Your voice in budget decisions

For Employees

- 17.8% raises for non-union employees (competitive pay)
- Respect for public service
- Clear career paths
- Job satisfaction
- Pride in your work

For Neighborhoods

- You decide local priorities
- Responsive government
- Visible improvements
- Safer streets
- Stronger community

For Small Businesses

- Safer commercial districts
- Healthier workforce
- More disposable income in community
- Infrastructure investment
- Economic opportunity

For Louisville

- Lower crime rates
- Better health outcomes
- Stronger communities
- More engaged citizens

- Brighter future

YOUR ROLE

This budget can’t work without you.

Participate

- Attend participatory budgeting meetings
- Vote on neighborhood priorities
- Volunteer for programs
- Give feedback on services

Hold Us Accountable

- Check the public dashboard
- Read quarterly reports
- Attend town halls
- Speak up when something’s wrong

Spread the Word

- Talk to neighbors
- Share on social media
- Invite friends to meetings
- Build community

Government works best when citizens are engaged. Be engaged.

REAL TALK

Q: Can Louisville really afford this?

A: Yes. Same total budget, just spent smarter. We’re cutting waste, not services.

Q: Will this really reduce crime?

A: My target is a 20-30% crime reduction around substations, backed by youth programs and wellness centers.

Q: Why should I trust this will happen?

A: Every program is evidence-based. Every outcome will be publicly measured.

Q: What if it doesn't work?

A: We measure everything. If something isn't working, we adjust. Public dashboard shows real-time results.

Q: Isn't this just typical politician promises?

A: Read the budget. Every line item. Every dollar. Every program. It's all there. No magic, just math.

THE DIFFERENCE

This isn't just a budget. It's a vision for Louisville.

A city where:

- Police officers know your name
- Healthcare is in your neighborhood
- Young people have opportunity
- Your voice actually matters
- Government serves people

Same money. Different priorities. Better Louisville.

GET INVOLVED

Website: rundaverun.org
Email: dave@rundaverun.org
Budget Questions: dave@rundaverun.org

Volunteer: We need you
Donate: Every dollar helps
Vote: Let’s transform Louisville together

DAVE BIGGERS FOR MAYOR
A Budget for People, Not Politics

Complete budget documentation available at rundaverun.org/budget
Version 1.0 | November 2, 2025

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.