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TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 27, 2026

RE: **Legislative Policy Division (LPD) Report on the Community Outreach Ordinance- Community Budget Priorities Forums for 2026- 2027**

On October 20, 2020, the City of Detroit adopted the Community Outreach Ordinance to reinforce its dedication to fostering community engagement that enhances transparency and accountability.<sup>1</sup> The ordinance aims to ensure that residents are informed about legislation, contracts, agreements, and resolutions pertaining to a range of City-Wide Proposals and Neighborhood Class A-D Proposals, as specified within the ordinance. A “City-Wide Proposal” encompasses all initiatives reviewed by the City Council, including the Mayor’s annual recommended budget, bond proposals, the City-Wide Non-Motorized Urban Transportation Plan, the City-Wide Park Improvement Plan, and ballot initiatives initiated by either the administration or City Council.

**Legislative Policy Division Observations: Community Budget Priorities Forums**  
[Insights from the January 2026 District Budget Priorities meetings](#)

This report presents the observations of the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) regarding the Community Budget Priorities Forums conducted in all 7 districts during the week of January 26, 2026. It represents a snapshot of citizen issues and concerns discussed during these meetings and may not represent all budget priorities relevant to the districts. These forums addressed both the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget and the recommended upcoming budget for fiscal year 2027. Typically, the budget priority forums are held earlier in the Administration’s budget development process, alongside the Office of the Chief Financial Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Per the Community Outreach Ordinance, the City Council will appoint a liaison from the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to monitor the community outreach process set forth in the ordinance to provide updates to City Council.

(OCFO) charter-mandated annual Public Budget meetings.<sup>2</sup> However, for 2025, the forums were deferred to allow newly elected Mayor Mary Sheffield the opportunity to review and assess the process. This coordination of the annual public budget meetings and the community budget priorities forum schedule will enable the Administration to incorporate feedback from community stakeholders more effectively, ensuring that the budget reflects the priorities, issues, and concerns of Detroit residents. The forums provided a platform for participants to voice their opinions on funding allocations, service improvements, and strategic investments, contributing to a more inclusive and transparent budget planning process. As a result, these sessions are anticipated to play a role in shaping recommendations for both the current and future fiscal years, aligning municipal actions with the needs and aspirations of the community.

The OCFO Office of Budget is currently in the process of preparing the Mayor’s recommended budget for city programs, services, and activities for July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and the city’s four-year financial plan for fiscal years 2027 through 2030. The recommended annual budget and four-year financial plan will be presented to the Detroit City Council on Monday, March 9, 2026, for subsequent review and adoption by City Council.

Below is a brief outline of some of the citizens’ issues raised during the two annual FY 2026 Public Budget meetings held in September 2025.<sup>3</sup>

<i>OCFO Annual Public Budget Meetings- Resident Comments and Concerns</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BSEED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Blighted empty lots and environmental concerns</i></li> <li>○ <i>Abandoned vehicles</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health Dept</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Health concerns regarding speed bumps</i></li> <li>○ <i>Marijuana programs at the Health dept.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DPW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Sidewalk Repair Program- more funds for repairs near schools and parks.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Traffic light maintenance- outages when it rains.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GSD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>More funding for blight remediation of Detroit Land Bank Properties.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Parks and Public Spaces Development- Lack of access for special needs population.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Alley clean-up- who is responsible?</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DWSD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Drainage Fees collections; \$50 million lease payment – Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).</i></li> <li>○ <i>West Chicago Project</i></li> <li>○ <i>Additional funds for the Lifeline Program.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Stop Sanitary lines Replacement Project.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Funds for tree cutting/tree trimming on sidewalks curbs.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Police Dept</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Auction proceeds included in the Police dept budget.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Neighborhood Police Patrols</i></li> <li>○ <i>Funds to eliminate Drag Racing</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Dept</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>HAZMAT unit on site at Water plant; does GLWA reimburse the city for this service.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Fire Dept CPR Training for Community Organizations</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<sup>2</sup> The Office of the Chief Financial Officer committed to improving communication between residents and the city. In compliance with the City Charter, two Public Budget Meetings (Part I and II) were held on September 22 and September 29, 2025. The process provides for the Community Budget Priorities Forums to be held shortly after the Annual Public Budget meetings. This structure ensures public comments are received earlier in the budget cycle, allowing for consideration in the city’s budget development. As a result, fewer basic inquiries about the budget process arose during district meetings, allowing more focus on substantive community priorities and department-specific concerns.

<sup>3</sup> Presentations were made from departments as specified by the City Charter: General Services, Public Works, Detroit Water & Sewerage, Fire, Health, Police, and Public Lighting Authority. Residents participated by asking questions and commenting, which informed the subsequent district community meetings.

## Insights from the January 2026 District Budget Priorities Forums- Structure of meetings

As noted above, this year the District Priority Budget Forums did not immediately follow the annual Public Budget meetings but were held this past January 2026. The Priority Budget forums were hosted by the Department of Neighborhood's (DON) District Managers/Deputy District Managers and City Council members, including At-Large Council members and staff. Meetings were held virtually via Zoom and attendance on average was 50 participants per district, including city personnel. The OCFO Office of Budget Acting Director, Donnie Johnson and Deputy Budget Director, Matthew Spayth, led the budget priorities discussions beginning with a ten-minute overview of the city's budget process and timeline, followed by pertinent details about the FY 2026 city budget. Residents then participated in an interactive discussion facilitated by the District Managers/Deputy District Managers, including two interactive polling questions and general comments. Digital tools like the Slido app, Zoom chat, and raise hand features enabled participants to share brief responses and expand verbally if they wished.

### LPD Observations

As in past years, there were a short series of polling questions posed to the participants to better understand the specific needs and desires of the community. In the last priority budget meetings, the Office of Budget included a slightly different variation of questions from those presented previously. In 2025, the department asked the following survey polling questions:

#### Prior Year Survey

1. *What would you like to see prioritized in the budget?*
2. *These are top priorities citywide from 2024; how would you rank these priorities today? (Home Repair, Senior Support, Transportation, Affordable Housing, Youth Programs, Neighborhood Rebuilding, Public Safety, Parks Funding, Safer Street Design) Answer: Top response: Home Repair. Next, Elaborating on the top response:*
  - Home repair: How can this (home repair) be improved?

Public comments were centered around the citywide top priorities from the previous year.

#### Current FY 2026 Survey

1. *What would you like to see prioritized in the budget?*
2. *These are priorities that we heard last year across the City. How would you rank these priorities?(Priorities from FY 2025 citywide: Home Repair, Sidewalks, Blight Elimination, Transportation, Affordable Housing, Public Safety, Tree Removal/Trimming, Parks Funding, Small Business Support, and Safer Street Design)*

This year's polling questions 1 and 2 remain the same as the previous year. However, this year public comments were not focused on the top ranked priority question that was identified in polling question 2, as was the case in the previous year's forums. Instead, the public comments were open for general budget discussions. Consequently, the elimination of the one top ranked priority questions this year served to decrease the range of discussion. But last year's forum also included more community participants who were allowed to speak live during the meeting. And in doing so, they spoke on a wider range of issues which might not have been on topic at the time, but it created the feeling of a space open to more ideas. In our opinion, the discussion was more vibrant last year; this year's process was more streamlined, most likely because the district budget priorities forums were held in January 2026 and were shorter in length.

LPD suspects this was the case since the Administration had a much shorter time to address as many citizen budget priorities as possible in the development of the proposed FY 2027 budget.

For the future, LPD recommends that the OCFO-Office of Budget return to its previous format of hosting the district budget priority forums in the fall, allow for more time for the forums, and restore the top ranked priority questions to spark more discussion with citizens on their forward-looking vision and aspirations for city features, services, amenities, and budget priorities. This should help residents to participate more meaningfully in long-term planning of the city and its desired trajectory.

## LPD Comments

Based on LPD's observations from the January 2026 district budget priority forums, concerns regarding housing remain prominent, with affordable housing, home repair grants, and opportunities for homeownership ranking highly among participants' priorities. Numerous comments underscored the need for enhanced support to assist Detroit residents in securing and maintaining homeownership. Specific groups identified for increased assistance included youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Affordable housing continues to remain a significant priority. Current data suggests although 89% of homebuyers prefer single-family homes, construction trends have not kept up. This has resulted in a nationwide shortfall of about 6.5 million single-family homes, pushing housing prices higher.<sup>4</sup> Detroit possesses a higher proportion of single-family homes than any other city in the United States with a population exceeding 350,000.<sup>5</sup> However, many citizens now struggle to afford property upkeep. Access to home repair programs has consistently been among the top concerns in recent years, with calls for more grants not only for seniors and low-income residents but also for middle-income families. Maintaining one's property is a fundamental aspect of homeownership, yet in one of America's poorest cities, this can pose substantial challenges. Ongoing community surveys confirm a strong need and desire for home repair loans and grants accessible to a broader range of income levels. Future presentations by the Administration should include clear explanations of ongoing efforts to expand home repair programs and create more affordable housing opportunities, as well as updates on the implementation of other initiatives highlighted in previous years' community outreach efforts.

Transportation emerged as the primary concern in three Districts (4, 5, and 6) , though its importance declined in some districts. This decline likely does not reflect improvements in the transportation system; rather, it may indicate that the community has either lost hope for meaningful changes, have found other modes of transportation, like Uber and Lyft, or considers other issues more urgent.

Despite widely reported reductions in crime rates throughout the city, demand for increased public safety funding has grown among many residents. Mayor Sheffield has committed to continued support for the neighborhood policing which includes Community Violence Intervention programs that empowers community groups to participate in crime prevention efforts and rewards them based on documented reductions in local crime statistics. Both Mayor Mary Sheffield and former Mayor Mike Duggan have advocated legislation in Lansing aimed at securing additional funding for these programs. Mayor Sheffield

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<sup>4</sup> <https://constructioncoverage.com/research/cities-with-the-most-single-family-homes-> High interest rates and housing costs have put downward pressure on single-family construction. Current data and statistics for Detroit: Fortunately, Detroit has 74.2% of single-family housing (180,492 single family housing units compared to 243,243 total housing units) and continue to rank number 1 of the large cities surveyed (300) nation-wide. In addition, 54.8% of renter occupied housing is single-family housing.

<sup>5</sup> [U.S. Cities with the Most Single-Family Homes \[2024 Edition\] - Construction Coverage-](#) updated October 2025.

has recently announced the creation of a community public safety office- the Office of Neighborhood and Community Safety.

## Results by District

### District 1- Thursday, January 29, 2026

City Council President: James Tate

Hosted by: Steele Hughes, District 1 Manager; Stephen Westbrooks, District 1 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Donnie Johnson, Deputy CFO, Acting Budget Director

District 1 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns	Rank	October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns
1	Affordable Housing	1	Affordable Housing
2	Home Repair	2	Home Repair Programs

District 1 participants identified the same top two (2) citywide budget priorities for the FY 2027 budget – Affordable Housing and Home Repair – when they re-ranked the FY 2026 citywide budget priorities from the prior year’s forum.

When Question #1 was asked during the Forum, participants provided several FY 2027 budget priorities for District 1, some of which were also FY 2026 budget priorities. The two (2) key FY 2027 budget priorities were Home Repairs and Water Affordability. Other FY 2026 budget priorities were also identified were: Affordable Housing, Fixing or Demolishing Vacant Homes and Garages, Youth Programs and Business Incentives, Illegal Dumping (Trash), Workforce Development Strategy (contracts, jobs, emerging developer support and training) and other beautification efforts (healthy soil, seniors snow/grass, and parks and greenspace). New District 1 FY 2027 budget priorities introduced were transportation (more, timely buses and transportation justice), participatory budgeting and funding, public safety-police, community led safety, more city accountability, road safety, meaningful engagement, improve Fenkell, public art, anti-surveillance measure, lead line replacement, property tax justice, residential protections, rental assistance program, and street water drainage. One participant asked if a definitive meaning could be provided for ‘Affordable Housing’ since there are many definitions. Other comments included lowering the cost (\$2.50 per trip fare) for paratransit services, It was further suggested that the City obtain sponsorship to help cover these costs. After the District 1 Budget Priority Forum, the Office of City Council President Tate held a subsequent budget training activity on February 6, 2026.

### District 2- Monday, January 26, 2026:

City Council Member: Angela Whitfield-Calloway

Hosted by: Marshall Bullock, District 2 Manager; Sean Davis, District 2 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Matthew Spayth, Deputy Budget Director

District 2 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns	Rank	October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns
1	Affordable Housing	1	Neighborhood Rebuilding
2	Home Repair	2	Home Repair

District 2 participants identified Affordable Housing as the only key FY 2027 budget priority after answering Question #1. Participants identified several other District 2 FY 2027 budget priorities for Question #1: Compensate Retirees Fund, Participatory Budgeting, public transportation, snow removal – residential and major streets, youth engagement and programs, homeless intervention, bike patrols, digital divide enhanced, city fund availability, and education services. Some of these budget priorities were new and some already identified as FY 2026 budget priorities.

In addition to being identified as the only key FY 2027 budget priority for District 2, participants ranked Affordable Housing as the top FY 2027 budget priority when they re-ranked the FY 2026 citywide budget priorities. The FY 2026 citywide budget priority – Neighborhood Rebuilding – was not ranked; however, Neighborhood Rebuilding budget sub-priorities were identified for the FY 2027 budget: small businesses, managing idle/vacant land, occupying greenspaces, home repair, recreation, potholes, grants for buying homes, safe streets, and community violence intervention. Home repair remained the second ranked citywide budget priority for the FY 2027 and FY 2026. Residents from the Fitzgerald neighborhood asked if there were any plans to strengthen resident-led budget processes like participatory budgeting to ensure budget priorities of City Residents translate into real investments in the final budget as there are no real mandates requiring this.

**District 3- Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

City Council Member: Scott Benson

Hosted by: Kayana Sessions, District 3 Manager; Rashaun Sanders, District 3 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Donnie Johnson, Deputy Budget Director

<b>District 3 Year over Year Comparisons</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns</b>
1	Affordable Housing	1	Public Safety
2	Public Safety	2	Senior Support

One participant commented that District 3 should increase marketing to get more residents, businesses, and developers since the borders were expanded. It was further stated that this marketing also includes blight elimination, demolishing abandoned schools and signage for neighborhoods. Comments were given on the Van Dyke/8-mile corridor many needs: signage and banners on lighting poles to welcome people into the City from the suburbs; the return of mini police station; strategic neighborhood designation for planning technical assistance; and new infill housing of single-family homes. One resident asked for code enforcement in the Farwell Recreation Center area due to abundance of garbage and trash. Another participant requested an increase in the budget for the Department of Neighborhoods and what can District 3 residents and block clubs expect for FY 2027. Participants wondered if new housing development is feasible due to the number of vacant lots from demolition activity; more rebuilding is needed. Regarding transportation, it was suggested to add solar-powered heaters at bus stops; also, solar-powered heaters can be installed on Woodward first, then Seven Mile down to Dequindre to Hayes or Kelly. Participants further asked if the process of buying lots can be made quicker and easier to enable citizens to beautify and put infrastructure on them. Another participant commented that more beautification is needed around PLD transfer stations. A specific example was given for a vegetative buffer around the transfer station located at John R and State Fair. Other participants repeated earlier sentiments and included that beautification and development was needed in the districts, such as a community facility that has specific hubs for wellness, resolution, and mediation, and vacant schools can be utilized as community assets. The need for more Neighborhood policing was discussed with neighborhood police officers working 7 days a week, all shifts.

Other comments made: more businesses are needed in the district and gas stations need to be welcoming and have friendly atmospheres.

**District 4- Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

City Council Member: Latisha Johnson

Hosted by: Taylor Harrell, District 4 Manager; Eboni Deberry, District 4 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Donnie Johnson, Deputy CFO, Acting Budget Director

<b>District 4 Year over Year Comparisons</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns</b>
1	Transportation	1	Home Repair
2	Affordable Housing	2	Affordable Housing

District 4 citizens shifted the top 2 ranked citywide budget priorities slightly for the FY 2027 budget after re-ranking the FY 2026 citywide budget priorities for Question #2. Transportation replaced Home Repair as the #1 FY 2027 citywide budget priority. Affordable Housing was identified as the #2 FY 2027 citywide budget, which is the same for FY 2026.

District 4 residents provided a variety of District 4 budget priorities for the FY 2027 budget for Question #1. Some budget priorities were previously identified for the FY 2026 budget, but many of them were new for FY 2027. The FY 2026 budget priorities were affordable housing, recreation, and public safety. Participants identified housing as the top priority for FY 2027, followed by sidewalk repair, recreation, and public safety being budget priorities identified for both FY 2026 and FY 2027. New FY 2027 budget priorities included more frequent snow removal, homelessness services, poverty alleviation, weekend and evening paratransit services, lot renovations, participatory budgeting, wraparound services, nightlife, youth services/and programs, small business support, mental health and crisis intervention, home repair programs, senior support, Medicaid stipends, restoration of city retiree pensions, flood mitigation in Jefferson-Chalmers area, and beautification.

District 4 residents asked questions and made comments throughout the meeting. One participant suggested adding a grocery store in the Ravensdale community. Inquiries were made about how recurring budget priorities are managed, and how budget priorities are determined and grouped and making Participatory Budgeting at the District level a citywide priority. Another resident requested that Animal Control, identified as a citywide Public Safety priority, be given high priority to support the mental health and well-being of the community. Recommendations were made for enhancing code enforcement follow-up subsequent to the implementation of planning development initiatives. A resident recommended that the city increase surveillance in neighborhoods, especially Von Steuben area, to address illegal dumping and reduce blight. Community priorities in Yorkshire Woods community were discussed, with sidewalk repairs highlighted as the top issue for the FY 2027 budget. It was emphasized that all sidewalks should be repaired simultaneously rather than focusing on individual homes or post-demolition areas. Additionally, participants proposed a public maintenance program offering services like grass cutting and snow removal for senior citizens. It was also requested a curb-cut installation on I-94, westbound at Kensington Street, specifically for the Yorkshire Woods community.

**District 5- Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

City Council Member: Renata Miller

Hosted by: Keith Butler, District 5 Manager; Bonnie Ferrell, District 5 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Donnie Johnson, Deputy CFO, Acting Budget Director

<b>District 5 Year over Year Comparisons</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns</b>
1	Transportation	1	Transportation
2	Eliminate Blight	2	Safer Street Design

Transportation remained the top priority for FY 2027 in re-ranking the citywide budget priorities for District 5 from FY 2026. Eliminate Blight replaced Street Design as the #2 FY 2027 citywide budget priority.

For Question #1, District 5 participants identified three District 5 (3) key FY 2027 budget priorities – affordable housing, public transportation, and sidewalk repair – that were also ranked as top priorities for FY 2026. Participants provided several budget sub-priorities of the three (3) key FY 2027 budget concerns including social housing, senior housing, public- mass transit improvements (bus frequency/ routes/services), roads- potholes and streets- walkability. Other priorities noted: repairs- water fountain (not specifically named), Truck Route Ordinance, public safety, pedestrian safety, more parks, bike lanes, Strategic Neighborhoods, vacant building oversight, water issues, alley maintenance, substance abuse issues, elevated crosswalks, and infrastructure improvements. Some of these priorities were also identified for the FY 2026 budget. Participant comments included pedestrian safety as a concern and suggested more elevated crosswalks like the one located on Larned Street behind the Meijer Rivertown Market. A resident from the Grand River- Livernois area provided a multi-layered comment regarding transportation and housing. District 5 needs more housing offered at an affordable rate (at a 30% AMI, which is \$38,000 and below), more single-family homes, environmentally clean vacant lots for purchase and more funding for the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), libraries and schools. One participant emphasized the importance of funding the DDOT and increasing the General Fund contribution to DDOT. Concerns were raised about Council’s redistricting (redistricted to District 4). Funding for the Health Department and Recreation Department were discussed; more programs for families with autism and should be open on Saturdays for these families. One participant recommended funding for an action plan for water main breaks. Lastly, it was suggested that one list be compiled of District 5 needs and then emailed to the OCFO- Office of the Budget.

**District 6- Thursday, January 29, 2026**

City Council Member: Gabriela Santiago-Romero

Hosted by: Eva Torres, District 6 Manager; Antonio Mora-Mills, District 6 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Matthew Spayth, Deputy Budget Director

<b>District 6 Year over Year Comparisons</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns</b>
1	Transportation	1	Home Repair
2	Sidewalks	2	Affordable Housing

District 6 participants selected two (2) new FY 2027 citywide budget priorities – transportation and sidewalks – after re-ranking the FY 2026 citywide budget priorities for Question #2. The new FY 2027 citywide budget priorities replaced the FY 2026 priorities – home repair and affordable housing.

Although District 6 participants provided many District 6 FY 2027 budget priorities for Question #1, none of them were shown as key FY 2027 budget priorities. Home repairs, affordable housing, transportation, public safety including immigrant safety are budget priorities that participants identified both for the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budgets. New FY 2027 budget priorities included general aid for immigrants, pocket parks, road improvements, community and neighborhood development, semi-truck/air pollution, water affordability, Right to Counsel, funds for tutoring, and cultural events.

Additional District 6 budget priorities discussed include Brownfield Redevelopment, enhanced street safety—particularly along Michigan Avenue—and an increase in multi-family housing options. Community members suggested allocating funds in the FY 2027 budget toward development in the North of West Warren area, noting the lack of stores and recreational facilities for new families relocating to the district. Another resident emphasized the need for a recreational facility tailored to families with children who have special needs, recommending features such as a sensory room and equipment for team basketball. Other recommendations presented include increased funding for the General Services Department (GSD) and addressing technology access for senior citizens, particularly support with virtual meetings. Environmental justice was also identified as a priority, with calls for funding focused on zip code 48217, recognized as one of the nation’s most polluted communities. Ensuring affordable water rates for Detroit residents was highlighted as a critical concern. Support for vulnerable immigrant residents was recommended through the creation of a legal aid fund for families detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), General Fund assistance for day-to-day needs, and resources for translation and interpreting services to foster community engagement and trust. A United Block Club Council representative raised three primary concerns: expanding home repair funding to include higher income brackets, investing in open green spaces and pocket parks—citing previous requests were redirected to other areas—and funding corridor improvements on Westmore, east of Livernois. The need for home repair support should be extended to non-senior citizens and individuals above the poverty threshold, reflecting an ongoing issue.

Additionally, participants advocated stronger trucking regulations and expanded enforcement. While some progress was made in October 2025, further citywide protections and resolutions are necessary. Budget allocations were requested for repairs to residences on Livernois affected by semi-truck vibrations, the establishment of relevant ordinances, and improved signage, as existing 'No Truck' signs fail to prevent frequent violations. It was proposed that a follow-up meeting address potential resolutions for impacted homeowners, especially since these damages are not covered by insurance.

Finally, there was a request to allocate funds for transportation services to enable elderly residents to attend city meetings and events. Participatory Budgeting was also discussed.

## **District 7- Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

City Council Member: Denzel Anton McCampbell

Hosted by: Lynda Jackson, District 7 Manager; Alexia Davis, District 7 Deputy Manager

OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Donnie Johnson, Deputy CFO, Acting Budget Director

District 7 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns	Rank	October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns
1	Affordable Housing	1	Neighborhood Rebuilding
2	Eliminate Blight	2	Public Safety

In response to Question #2, District 7 participants replaced the previous year’s leading priorities—Neighborhood Rebuilding and Public Safety—with Affordable Housing and Eliminate Blight for FY 2027. Notably, these two priorities were also listed among the returning items from FY 2026.

For Question #1, several District 7 FY 2026 budget priorities were reiterated by District 7 participants during the submission of their FY 2027 budget priorities. The top-ranked returning priorities included affordable housing and transportation. Additional recurring priorities from FY 2026 encompassed small business support, public safety, home repair, and beautification. New priorities introduced for the FY 2027 budget cycle include the Joy Road Retail Market Study, school system, shelters, recreational centers, City of Detroit retirees, digital divide, police funding, and Participatory Budgeting.

A representative of the Aviation Subdivision Neighborhood Association requested three new welcome signs due to errors in the original signage. Additional suggestions included the activation of McFarland Elementary School as a community hub for seniors, families, and youth, as well as requests for enhanced internet access and devices for residents. One resident advocated ongoing operational funding for Neighborhood Associations (\$5,000 annually) and Block Clubs (\$1,500 annually) and proposed the establishment of a heated therapeutic aquatic center for seniors and individuals with disabilities (previously suggested). A representative from the Happy Homes Community Association emphasized the importance of redeveloping marginalized and poverty-stricken areas in District 7. Recommendations included developing a sustainability program for post-blight elimination and initiating an open dialogue regarding genuine housing affordability, highlighting that current definitions often do not reflect the needs of those most affected. Additional concerns raised by participants involved home repairs, property tax relief, incentives for long-term Detroit residents, and increased transparency regarding development projects through improved communication channels. There was also a call for stricter oversight of city contractors to ensure accountability and quality of work. A representative of the Businessmen and Women Social Club of Detroit highlighted the need to strengthen communication and inclusion between senior residents and city leadership. The community expressed support for ongoing city-senior collaboration efforts and stressed the importance of compliance across all 104 senior centers to ensure respectful and equitable treatment of all individuals, regardless of circumstance.

## CONCLUSION

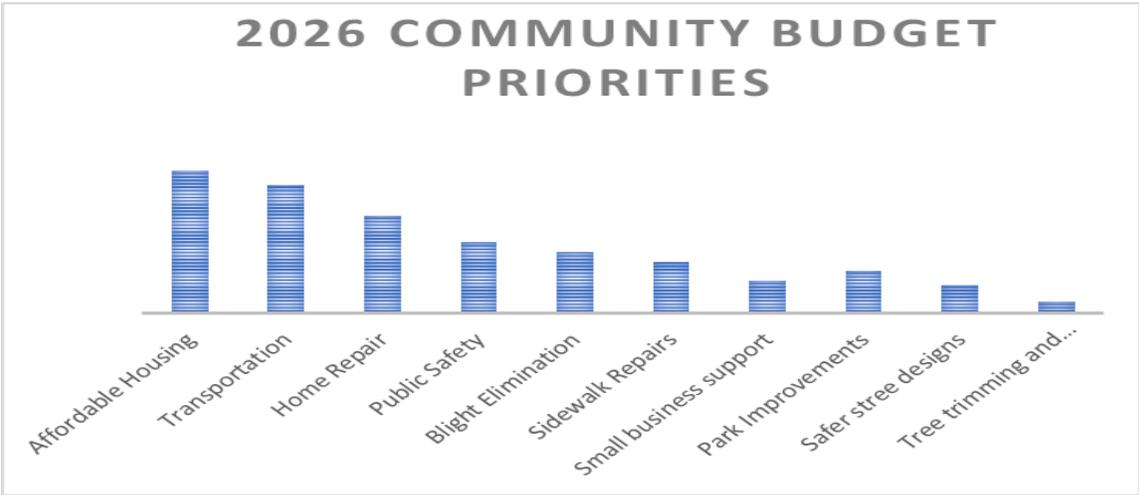
### Survey Results All Districts

This chart displays the results compiled from the virtual Community District meetings held this January 2026 and October/November 2024. Concerns/ issues/ priorities were segmented and ranked into 9 categories. This chart shows the outcome of rankings for the top five.

ALL DISTRICTS Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	January 2026 (FY 2027) Issues-Concerns	Rank	October 2024 (FY 2026) Issues-Concerns
1	Housing Programs: Affordable Housing and Home Repair (1); (3)	1	Housing Programs: Home Repair (1); Affordable Housing (3)
2	Transportation	2	Neighborhood Rebuilding
3	Public Safety	3	Transportation
4	Blight Elimination	4	Public Safety
5	Sidewalk repairs	5	Youth Programs

In reviewing a year-over-year comparison, LPD identified six issues that consistently ranked as top issues-concerns across all districts: affordable housing, transportation, home repairs, public safety, blight elimination and sidewalk repairs. Housing remains the highest priority for residents, with strong emphasis on affordable housing and home repair programs, including eligibility requirements to ensure housing options for all—including groups with specific housing needs.

Year-over-year shifts also show that transportation concerns have increased. While residents acknowledged the positive changes DDOT implemented in 2024 and 2025, many still feel that bus service remains inadequate.



**Recommendation**

City Council receives constituent concerns through various channels. Council members routinely meet with constituents both in person and virtually. Issues and concerns are also presented during General Public Comments at Council meetings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Additionally, feedback is received via regular mail, email, text messages, and other forms of communication. LPD acknowledges that priorities submitted through these various methods may lead to a ranking of priorities that differs from those discussed in the District Budget Priority Forums. All input should be carefully considered during the review of the proposed budget.

Residents remain concerned about how their feedback is reflected in the city's budget and continue to request more transparent connections between their input and budget decisions. LPD again recommends creating documents for the public that illustrate community feedback (detailed, specific requests) that impacts budget decisions. LPD suggests creating a scorecard or crosswalk that map specific community requests to budget outcomes-showing if priorities are included in FY 2027 budget.

Residents from various districts continue to seek funding for Participatory Budgeting, expressing dissatisfaction with city budget decisions. They want more input and direct control over funding for programs and services in their areas.

Linking program results or performance to budget decisions is a valuable budgeting tool. LPD continues to suggest that the Office of Budget provide updates on the Outcome Budgeting process which began in fiscal year 2016, and ongoing efforts to show how citizen input shapes budget recommendations. This information would help City Council better align funding decisions with citizens' priorities. The aim of Outcome Budgeting is to focus government spending on achieving specific results rather than just tracking expenditures. It allows for a clearer assessment of whether city funds are meeting set goals and objectives. Residents continue to request that data be made available at the district level, so they can see if their suggestions are being considered and acted upon.

Additional process improvement suggestions from LPD were made on page 3 and 4 of this document to assist with obtaining more directed input from the community.

In accordance with the Community Outreach Ordinance, the administration will provide City Council with a report detailing the itemized concerns raised by the impacted neighborhoods during the Community Outreach process and a proposed method to address each of those concerns. LPD understands this report will be submitted later, after the Mayor's presentation to City Council on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and FY 2027 – 2030 Four Year Financial Plan, scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

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