

THE WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WANTS YOUR OPINION

Over 10 years ago the City of Los Angeles developed a system of Neighborhood Councils to empower the citizens of Los Angeles and to advocate directly for real change in their communities. Each Neighborhood Council tackles the issues they care about most: community programs, roads and streets, the economy, funding of services, zoning issues. More importantly, the Neighborhood Councils have been very involved and made part of the city budget process.

Each Neighborhood Council elected one or two Budget Representatives to attend annual meetings with the Mayor. The Budget Representatives then elected Budget Advocates for each of the seven geographical area of the City to discuss priorities in the annual development of the city budget prior to its submission and approval by the City Council. These Budget Advocates have been meeting with City Departments to develop strategies for cost reductions and revenue generating options.

Los Angeles has faced great financial difficulties in the past few years. For the third consecutive year, the 2012-2013 city budget will be reduced to address a projected \$200 - \$250 million dollar budget deficit and a decline in revenues. These proposed cuts may reduce or eliminate critical city services.

Our Neighborhood Council, along with the other 95 Citywide Neighborhood Councils are reaching out to our stakeholders to help provide the Mayor with important feedback on:

- **Which reductions in city services** should be make to balance the budget deficit (such as street repairs, graffiti abatement, recreation and youth services, street cleaning, traffic issues, pothole repair and police/fire services)
- Receive advance notice of issues and projects that are important to them and their neighborhoods so they can understand, discuss them, and voice the opinions of the neighborhood to the City before final decisions are made.
- How to **prioritize city funding**
- How to **generate additional revenue** for the city.

This is how we can communicate to the Mayor and the city on the issues they care about most. Working together we can make a difference in our city if we take the time to share our thoughts with an online Budget Survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>. **The deadline to participate is February 22, 2012.**

Thank you,

Your Budget Representative