



Participatory Budgeting Vallejo · 555 Santa Clara Street · Vallejo · CA · 94590 · 707.648.4041 · www.pbvallejo.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Vallejo Residents 16 and Over to Vote Beginning This Weekend on How to Spend \$3 Million in Tax Dollars on Neighborhood Projects

Between May 11 and May 18, Vallejo residents will help decide how to allocate millions of tax dollars on projects developed by community members

VALLEJO, Ca. – In an uncommon example of direct democracy – unique to this city, the state and the nation – the City of Vallejo, ages 16 and over, will begin voting this weekend on how to spend approximately \$3.2 million in tax money on neighborhood projects developed entirely by the Vallejo community.

Vallejo – which just a few years ago was forced to file bankruptcy – is now doing something that only much bigger cities like New York and Chicago have even attempted (on a smaller scale), becoming the first city in the nation to allow a citywide vote on how to spend tax dollars. Vallejo's experiment in "participatory budgeting" has set up voting on the following dates and locations:

- > **Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** at Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador Street.
- > **Monday-Friday, May 13-17, 12 Noon to 7 p.m.** at Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street.
- > **Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** at Vallejo Adult School, 2833 Tennessee Street.

BACKGROUND: Residents have had the opportunity to view ideas created by volunteer budget delegates representing the following committees: education, economic development, public safety, streets & transportation, community & culture, parks & recreation, and other segments of the community at Project Expos and online. Delegates worked with fellow committee members, City of Vallejo staff and local non-profits to determine which projects are the most needed and meet predetermined guidelines approved by the Vallejo City Council.

More than 800 ideas were proposed by residents during the Budget Assemblies and online last Fall. Through the Budget Delegate process, a total of 35 of these ideas were developed into project proposals to be voted upon, including: street improvements, support for schools and parks, cultural events and public safety measures. The final voter approved ideas will be presented to the City Council for consideration in June. The City Council allocated 30 percent of Measure B sales tax revenue collected over a 15-month period from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for the Participatory Budgeting process. Voter-approved Measure B is a one percent sales tax to enhance City of Vallejo services, approved by voters November 8, 2011.

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