



City Manager's Office • 555 Santa Clara Street • Vallejo • CA • 94590 • 707.648.4577

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Joanna Altman, Administrative Analyst II, jaltman@ci.vallejo.ca.us, (707) 648-4362

Alyssa Alford, Administrative Analyst I, aalford@ci.vallejo.ca.us, (707) 648-4577

Lynda Daniels, Chair, PB Steering Committee, lyndaniels07@sbcglobal.net, (707) 704-4503

CITY OF VALLEJO RELEASES CYCLE 1 SUMMARY REPORT ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

VALLEJO, CA – As part of the preparation for an upcoming Participatory Budgeting (PB) conference at the White House in Washington D.C., the City of Vallejo has released a comprehensive summary on the background, participation, representation, and outcomes from Vallejo's first cycle of PB.

In 2012, Vallejo became the first municipality in the United States to implement Participatory Budgeting citywide – a democratic process that elicits ideas directly from community residents and stakeholders, and recommends the City Council approve funding for those proposals with the most votes. The summary report of the first year titled "*Participatory Budgeting in Vallejo: Innovation in Democracy & Community Engagement*" reviews the steps in the process, strategies for outreach, participation during each phase, levels of representation from Vallejo's diverse community, and the outcomes of the process, including the 12 projects approved by voters that are either already completed or currently being implemented.

"The projects placed on the ballot [during Cycle 1] and those receiving the greatest number of votes truly represented a group of projects that reflected the interests of all groups in Vallejo and the needs in our community," said John De La Torre, current Vice Chair of the PB Steering Committee. "Utilizing Participatory Budgeting has established a fundamental change in how the community and City of Vallejo will work together now, and in the future."

The report informs Vallejoans about how the PB process works, and serves as a successful model for other cities in the U.S. that are looking to implement their own PB program. The invitation to an upcoming conference on PB at the White House is a chance for Vallejo to share its vision of a new relationship between community and local government that is inclusive, transparent and effective.

A printable PDF version of the full report can be downloaded [here](#).

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