

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Hon. City Council: Writing as an individual, I am writing to share with you that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Budget Advocates published their Annual 2025 White Paper this year, click here: <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/white-papers> . The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates are an all-volunteer group who devote their time engaging with Neighborhood Councils and the Community on issues ranging from City Services to the City's Budget. They meet on a regular basis to discuss important issues like the city's budget and its impact on city services and the community as a whole. According to the Budget Advocates website, click here <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/> "The Budget Advocates are an elected, all volunteer, independent advisory body charged with making constructive recommendations on the City's budget to the Mayor and City Council and inspiring City Departments to improve their operations. Budget Advocates also solicit stakeholder input on City services, inform Angelenos on the City's fiscal management and report on the City's progress." It is imperative that the City Officials continue to engage with Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates on these issues and more, to take into account the Budget Advocates WHITE PAPER reports, and recommendations. Now more than ever it is imperative that City Officials work closely with Budget Advocates, Neighborhood Councils, and the Community as a whole.



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# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates provide guidance for L.A.'s deficit

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The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates delivered a letter to Los Angeles

elected officials on Tuesday, March 25, urging them to avoid across-the-board cuts without considering their long-term impacts and offered recommendations to address a nearly \$1 billion deficit at City Hall in the coming fiscal year.

Glenn Bailey and Jay Handal, co-chairs of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, delivered the group's annual White Paper, a report on the city's spending and services, to Mayor Karen Bass and the Los Angeles City Council. They urged the city to evaluate the structure of city departments and to consolidate them if necessary, as well as to consider moving employees back into City Hall or offer work-from-home opportunities to reduce costs with leases.

"This is a pivotal moment in our city's history," the letter reads. "It is not a time for politics but for responsible financial stewardship. We must make tough but rational decisions."

"This is also an opportunity to think about what kind of city we want in 10 years and structure the decisions accordingly," the letter continued.

The budget advocates also noted that history has shown "indiscriminate reductions" — especially in revenue-generating departments — can result in unintended consequences. They warned against slashing critical administrative functions such as personnel, which could leave the city struggling to recover once economic conditions improve.

In the letter, the budget advocates provided the following recommendations:

- Update the four-year General Fund budget outlook to reflect anticipated raises for city employees;
- Develop a two-year budget;

- Conduct open and transparent labor negotiations that require significant outreach to Angelenos before, during and after the negotiations;
- Place a ballot measure that would prohibit the city from entering into any labor agreement that would create a current or future deficit, which in the short term could be implemented via an ordinance;
- Develop a long-term infrastructure plan;
- Create robust reserve fund that can only be used in declared emergencies and not to balance the budget (a current practice); and
- Establish an Office of Transparency and Accountability to oversee the city’s budget and finances in real time.

In its 116-page report, the budget advocates also provide a department-by-department list of potential cost-saving measures, which can be viewed at [budgetadvocates.org/white-papers](http://budgetadvocates.org/white-papers).

Under a system established in 1999, members of Neighborhood Councils are volunteers elected by residents of their respective communities. The councils advocate on issues such as homelessness, housing, land use and public safety.

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