

THE PEOPLES BUDGET

A presentation to the City Budget & Finance Committee
Friday, April 24, 2026

People's Budget LA is led by Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles

peoplesbudgetla.com

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION & HISTORY **Dr. Melina Abdullah**

PEOPLE'S BUDGET SURVEY **Dr. David C. Turner III**

CLOSING & CALLS TO ACTION **Dr. Melina Abdullah**

INTRODUCTION & HISTORY

Dr. Melina Abdullah



The People's Budget LA coalition is led by Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles



2013-Present

Foundations of the People's Budget

BLMLA repeatedly sounded the alarm on the City's longstanding and outsized spending on LAPD. Police killed hundreds of people in LA County during this timeframe.

April 2020

Black LA Demands

BLMLA and more than 50 Black-led community organizations issued the Black LA demands, calling for investments to ensure that Black Angelenos have resources to address the disproportionate harm to Black communities during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the entrenched interlocking forces of systemic oppression.

May 2020

Formation of People's Budget Coalition

BLMLA convened the People's Budget LA coalition and launched the People's Budget survey, as well as hosted community town halls. On May 25th, Minneapolis police publicly executed George Floyd. #DefundThePolice and #ReimaginePublicSafety become the clarion calls during historic local and global Black Lives Matter uprisings.

June 2020

LA City Council Presentation

BLMLA and People's Budget LA coalition presented the first cycle of survey results to LA City Council and community groups. City Council responded with several policy proposals.

May 2021

LA City Council Presentation

June 2022

LA City Council Presentation

April 2023

Presentations to Mayor Karen Bass

February 2024

Presentation to Mayor Karen Bass

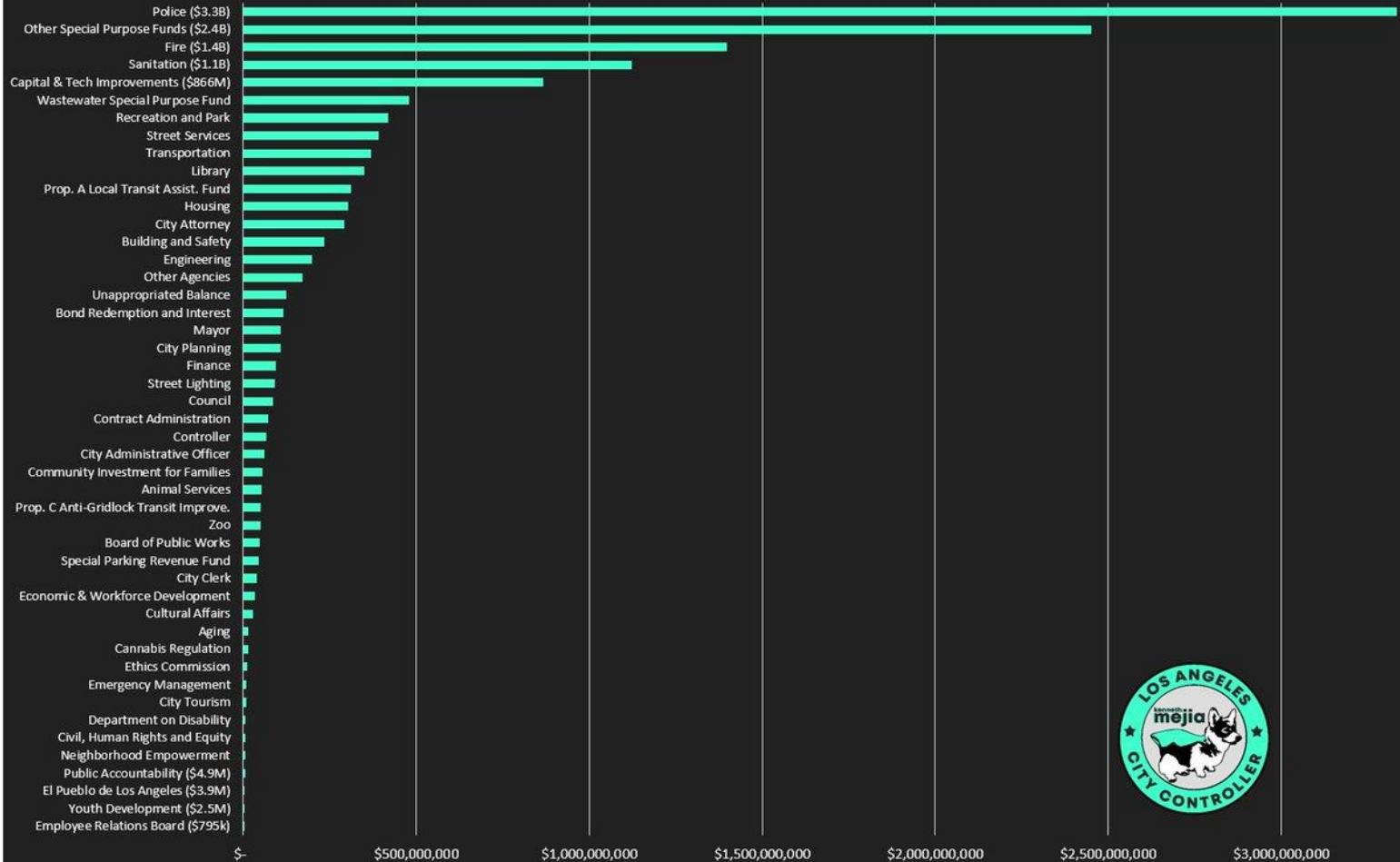
April 2025

Presentation to Mayor Karen Bass

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

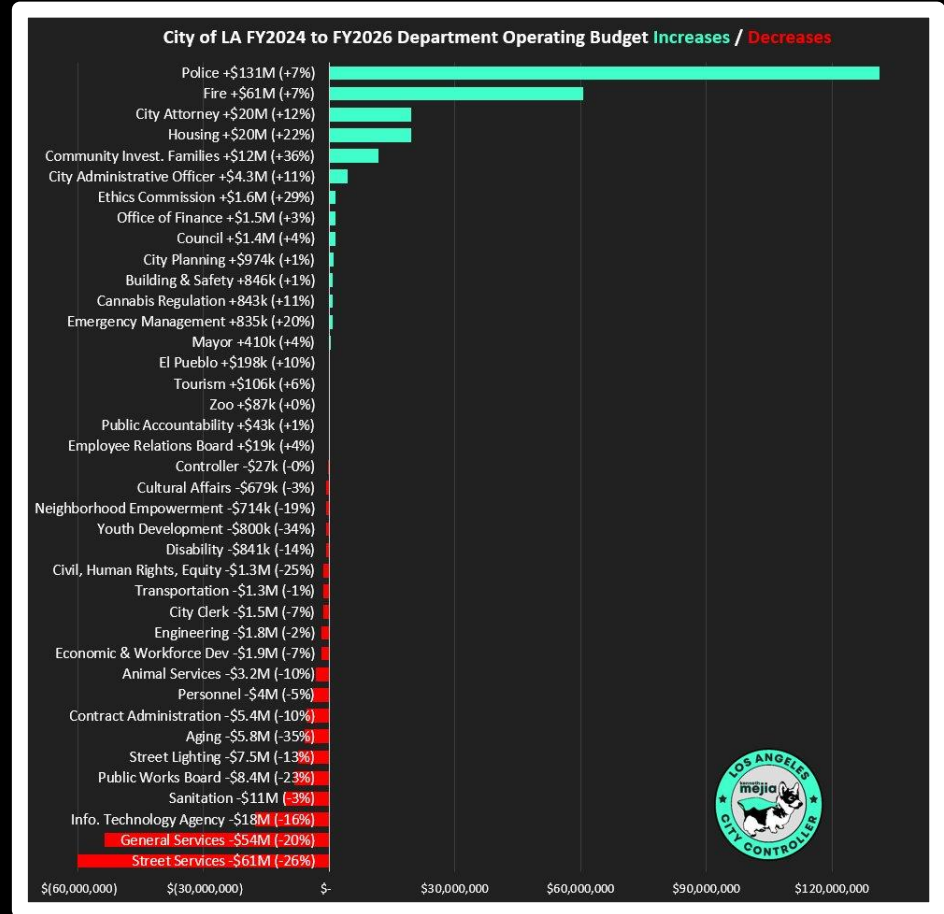
Dr. David C. Turner III

City of Los Angeles FY2026 Total Budget: \$14,103,321,315



When the City allocates billions to the police, the city can't pay for the support the people need.

Services from the housing department to youth programs remain underfunded.



Participatory Budgeting Engagement

1

Prioritize the voices of Black, Indigenous, Brown, disabled, working class, and poor people

2

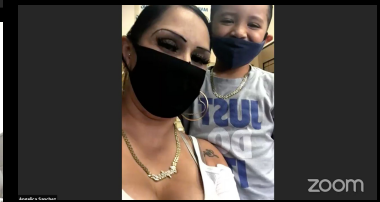
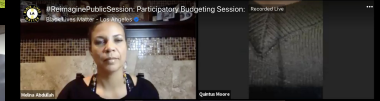
Work collaboratively with community-led organizations to invite participation

3

Make space for the people to speak

4

Share resources so the community can get more actively involved in participatory budgeting processes



We have been engaged year round in an urgent **public process of participatory budgeting** to solicit input of Angelenos on their priorities for the city.

Since we presented at City Council in June 2020, **we have engaged thousands of community members through online and in-person town halls**. We've also partnered with a few City Council members to host town halls events.

Over 35K

Survey Respondents
Over last six budget cycles
(2020-2026)

Over 60K

Participants
in Town Halls &
Community
Forums

Survey data can be segmented by several dimensions to **ensure our city's most neglected voices are heard.**

Council District

Employment Status

Experiencing Wage Cuts
Furloughed
Retired
Unemployed
Working

Essential Worker Status

Yes
No

Gender

Female
Gender non-conforming
Intersex
Male
Non-binary
Transgender
Two-spirit

Race

African-American/Black
Asian
Biracial (two or more races)
Latinx (Latino, Hispanic)
Middle Eastern
Native American
Other
Pacific Islander
Southeast Asian
White

Sexuality

Asexual

Some Highlights from the Survey

(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)

32%

Respondents Identify as
Black

31%

Of respondents
Identify as non-Black PoC

**1 out of 5
identify as
disabled
or
differently
abled**

67.6%

Of respondents identify as
women & femmes (57%),
nonbinary, trans, or
two-spirited

35%

Of respondents identify as LGBTQ

Some Highlights from the Survey

(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)

1 out of 3

Of respondents
identify as a crime survivor

1 out of 6

Of respondents have been
directly impacted by the
carceral system

4 out of 10

Of respondents have had a
family member impacted
by the carceral system

1 out of 6

Of respondents
have been directly harmed
by law enforcement

1 out of 3

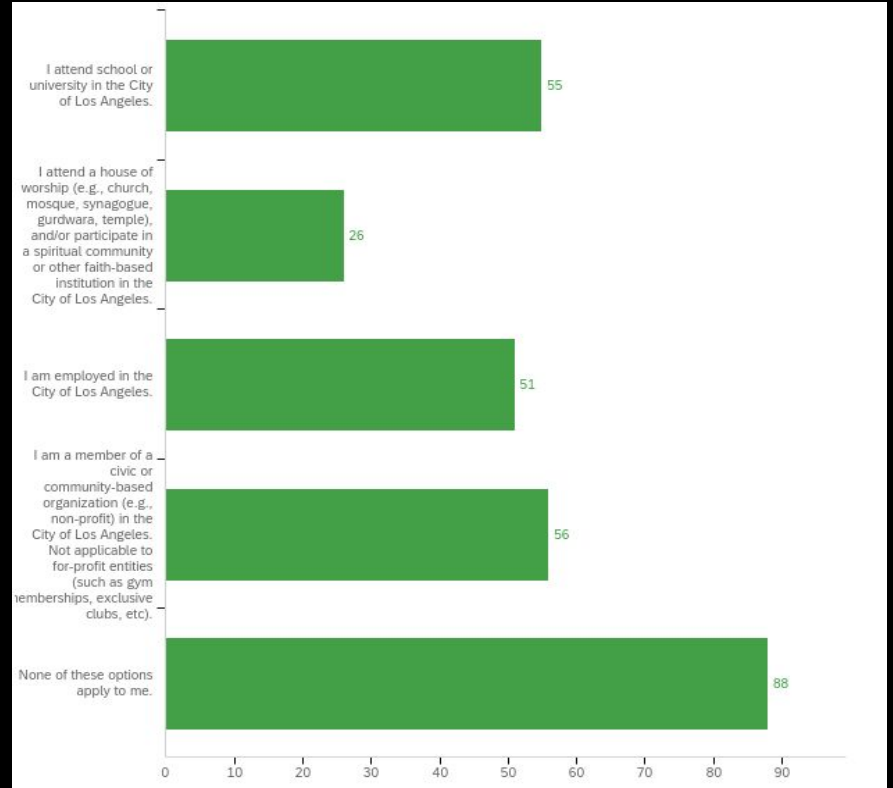
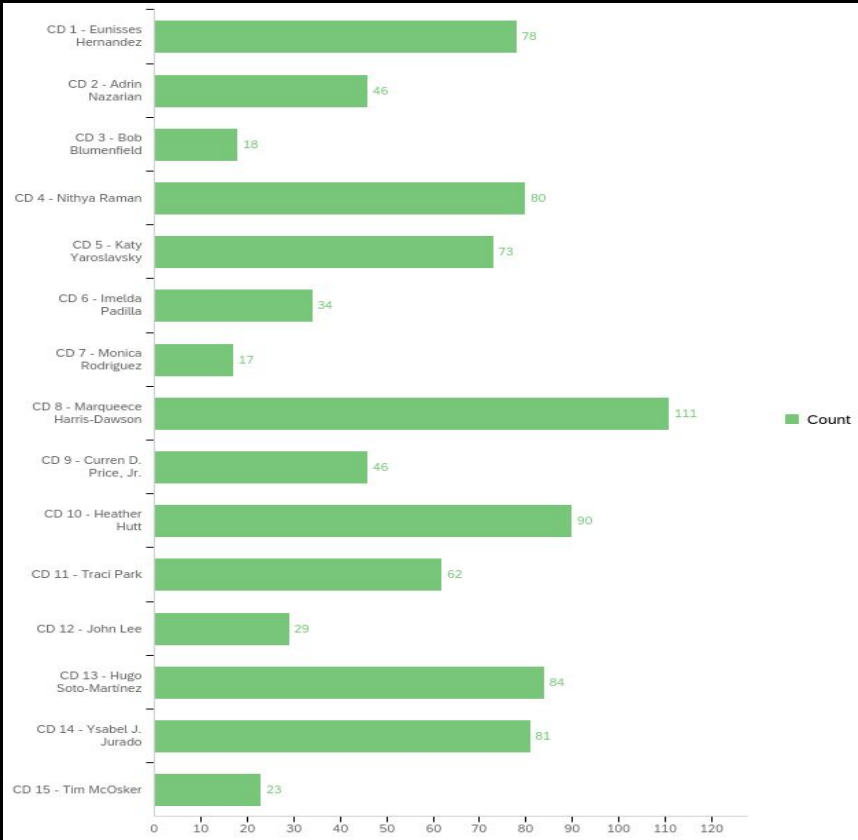
Of respondents
have had a family member
harmed by law enforcement

92.9%

Of respondents
are registered voters in the
in City of Los Angeles

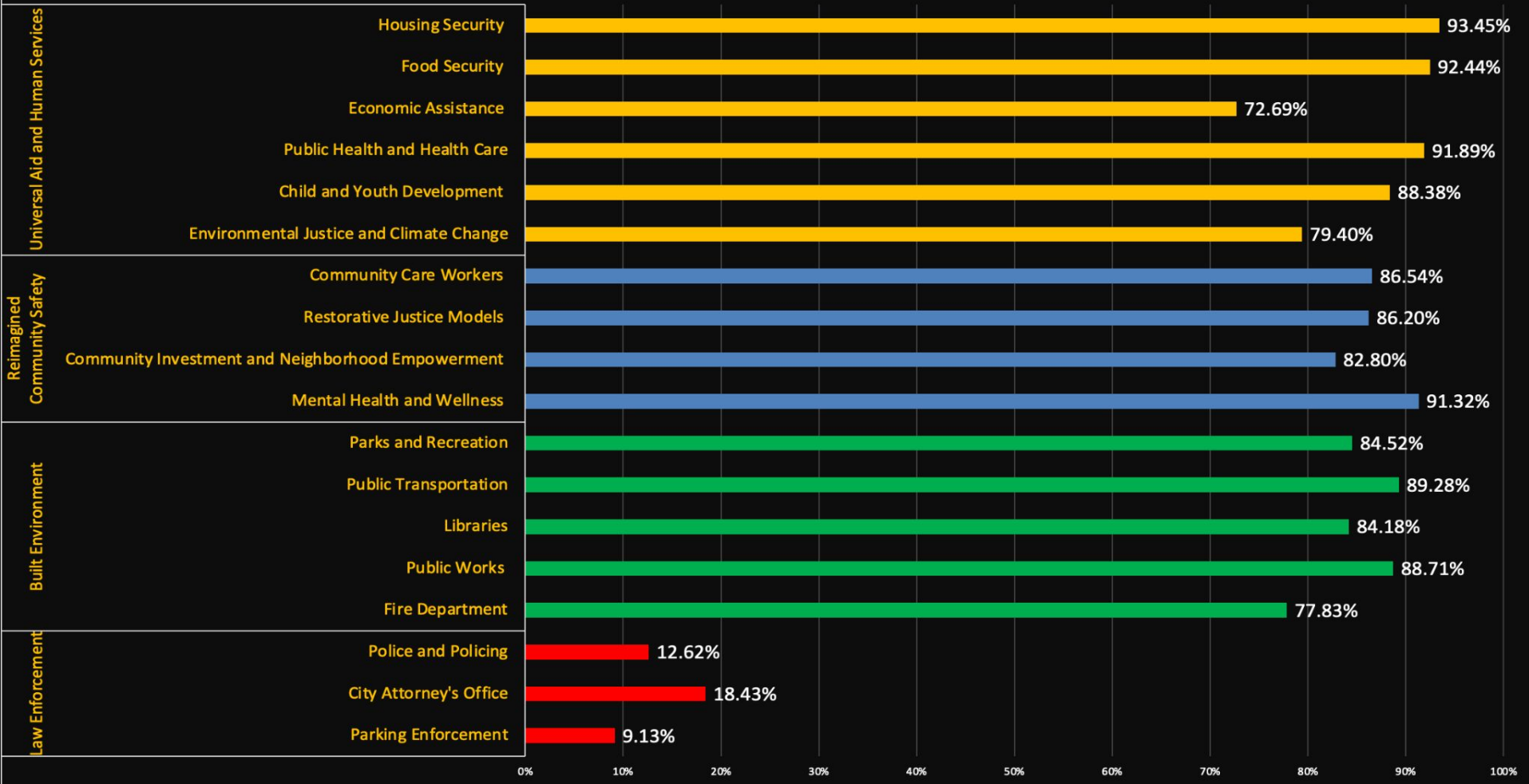
Some Highlights from the Survey

(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)



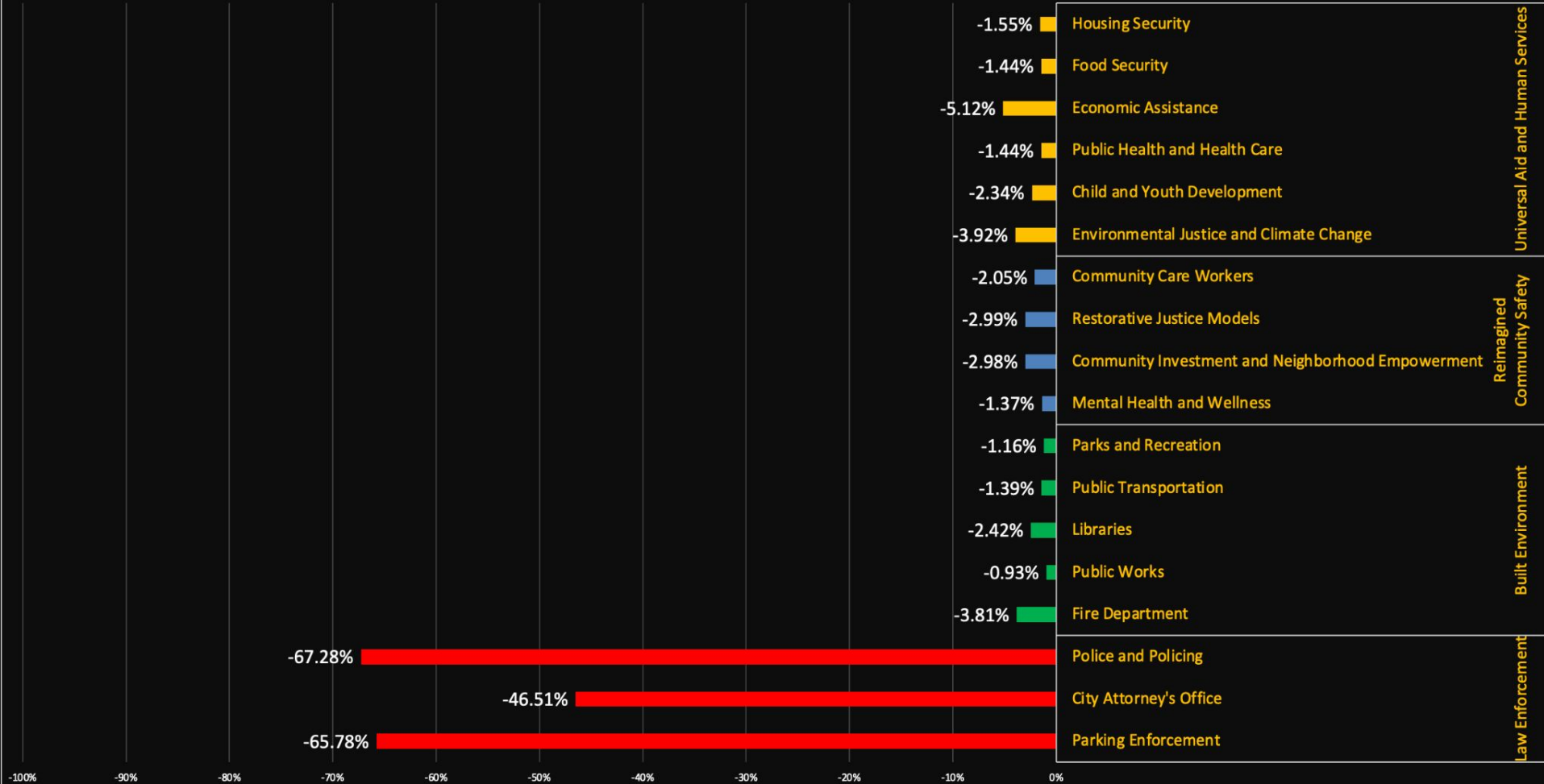
Areas of Investment

Survey Responses with both "Investment" and "Maximum Investment" pictured here



Areas of Divestment

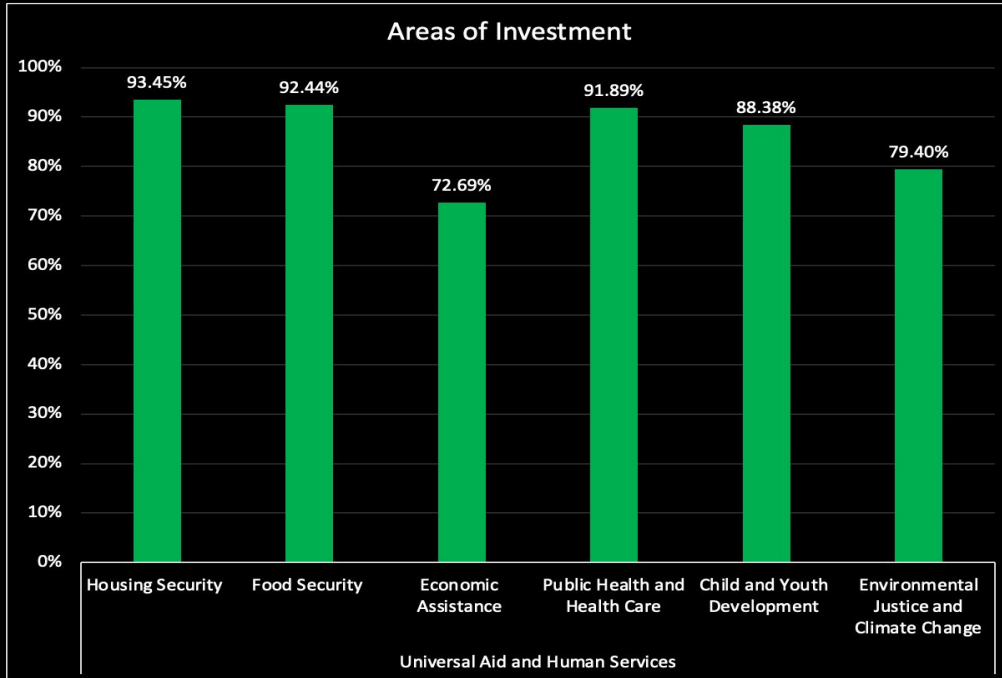
Survey Responses with both "Divestment" and "No Investment" pictured here



Top Priorities for Investment

Universal Needs

(Showing both maximum and moderate investment)



(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)

Strategies for Investment - Universal Needs

**Mayor's Budget Proposal - 510
new police officers**

**Total costs based on 1 year salary
(conservative estimate) =
\$46,992,930.00**

OR

**Universal needs based on
people's budget**

**In 24-25, the Community
Investment for families office
served 1,961 domestic violence
victims, got 7,000 young people
jobs, and got 12,800 adults jobs
on \$40,782,364. Adding \$46
million to the proposed \$81
million in the budget could mean**

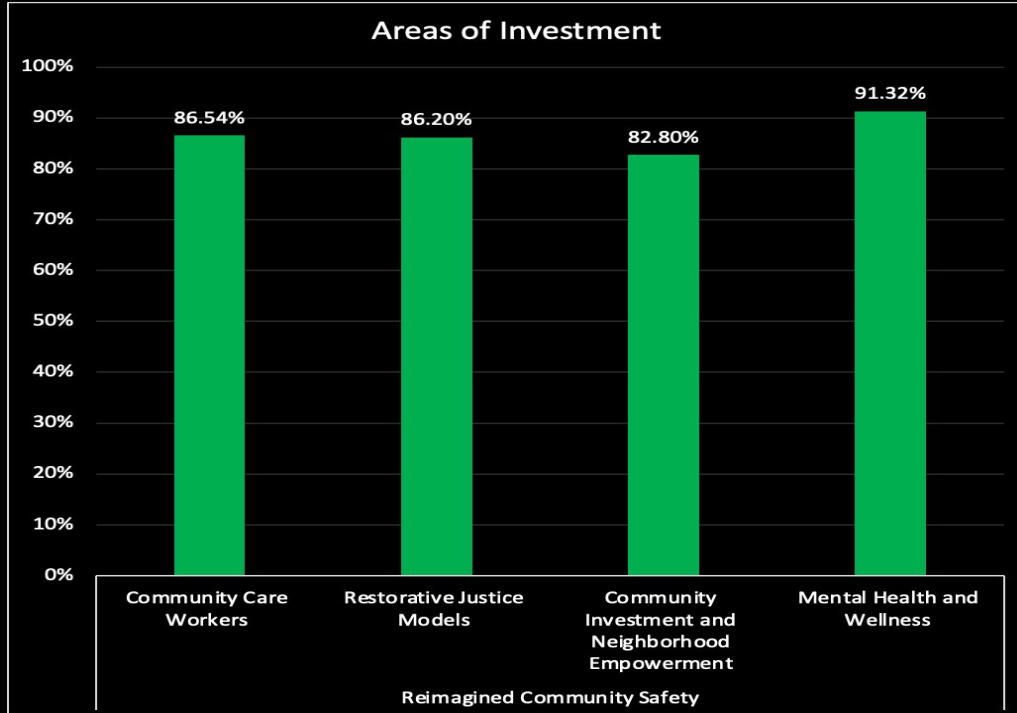
- **6000* domestic violence
victims served**
- **21,000* employed young
people**
- **38,400* employed adults**

*Estimates based on performance measures in
Mayor's budget proposal

Top Priorities for Investment

Reimagined Community Safety

(Showing both maximum and moderate investment)



(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)

Strategies for Investment - Reimagined Community Safety

**Mayor's Budget Proposal -
litigation and liability costs for
police lawsuits and violence -
\$47,075,910**

**In 2024-2025, the city paid
\$155,413,009 in liability, primarily
from the general fund**

**This means that the estimated 1.4
million of LA City's property
owners who contribute nearly 2.6
billion in property taxes paid
\$111.01 each to cover the cost of
police violence**

OR

**Reimagined Community Safety based
on people's budget**

**Gang Reduction and Youth
Development has been allocated \$38
million**

- **Primary summer program
served 171,000 Angelenos**

**CIRCLE LA for Unarmed Emergency
response has been allocated \$10
million**

- **In 2023, responded to 8,763
calls with half the budget**

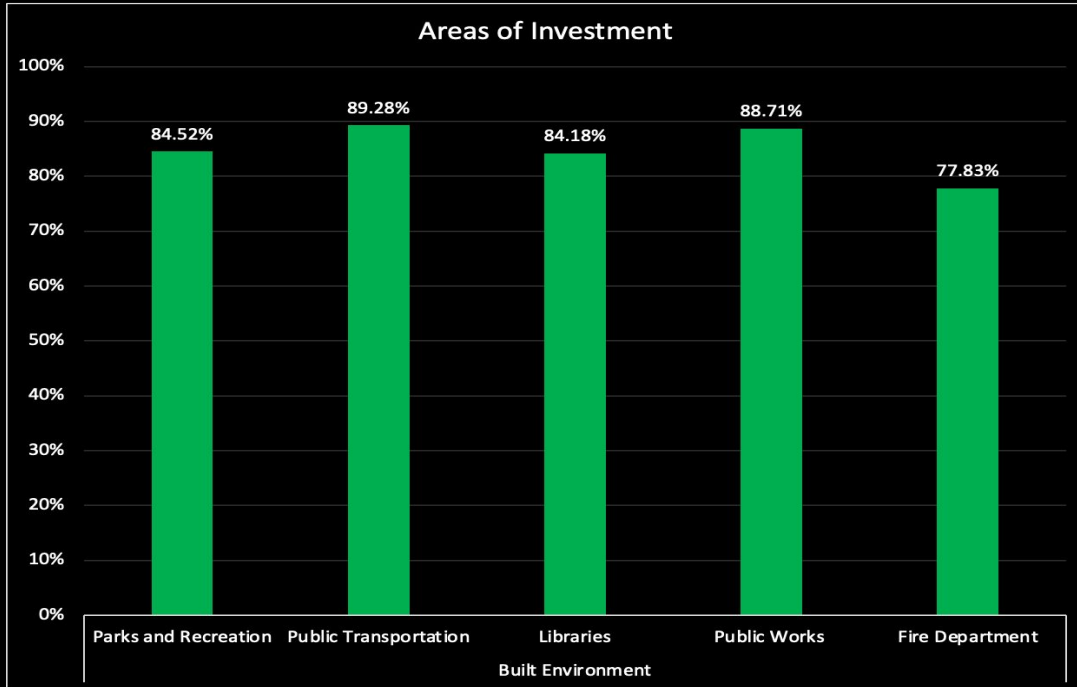
**Reallocating that \$47 million can serve
342,000 Angelenos through summer
programs, alongside responding to
over 25,000 emergency calls through
CIRCLE LA**

*Estimates based on performance measures in
Mayor's budget proposal

Top Priorities for Investment

Built Environment

(Showing both maximum and moderate investment)



(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)

Strategies for Investment - Built Environment

According to Catalyst California and the PUSH LA Coalition, \$77 million dollars is spent on traffic enforcement alone

The LAPD received \$303 million in sworn overtime in the fiscal year 24-25

OR

Built environment investments based on a People's Budget

Parks and Recreation could use an additional \$300 million (received an appropriation of 309 million) to enhance our green spaces)

Streetlights had an average response time of 203 days to get fixed on a budget of \$45 million

With the traffic reinvestment, you could cut the time to service streetlights in half

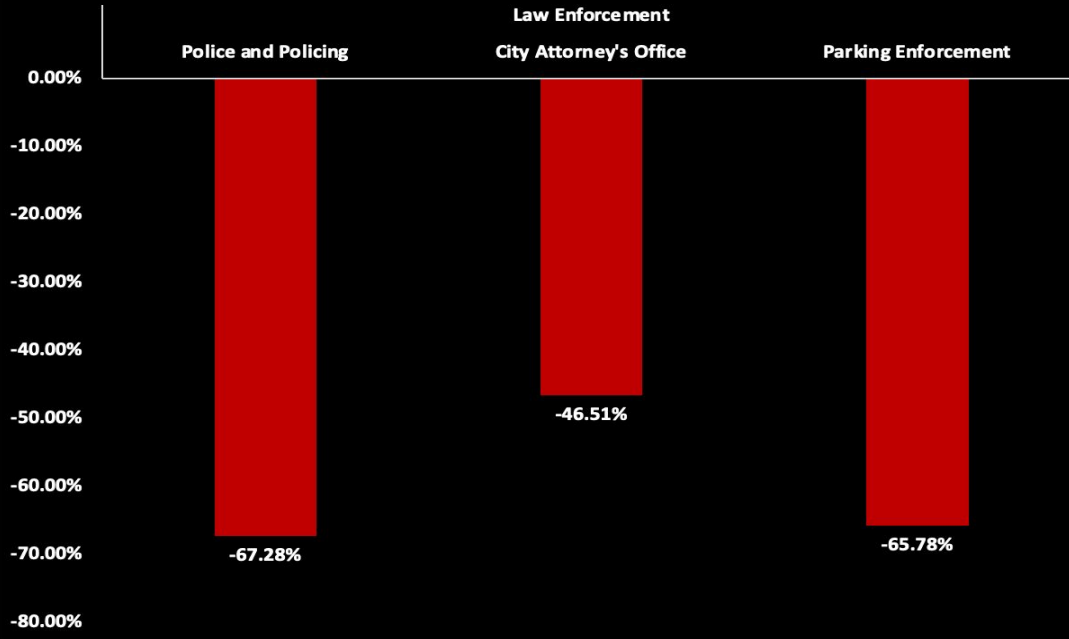
With even 33% of an overtime reinvestment, you can increase the fire departments total budget by 11%

Top Priorities for Divestment

Law Enforcement

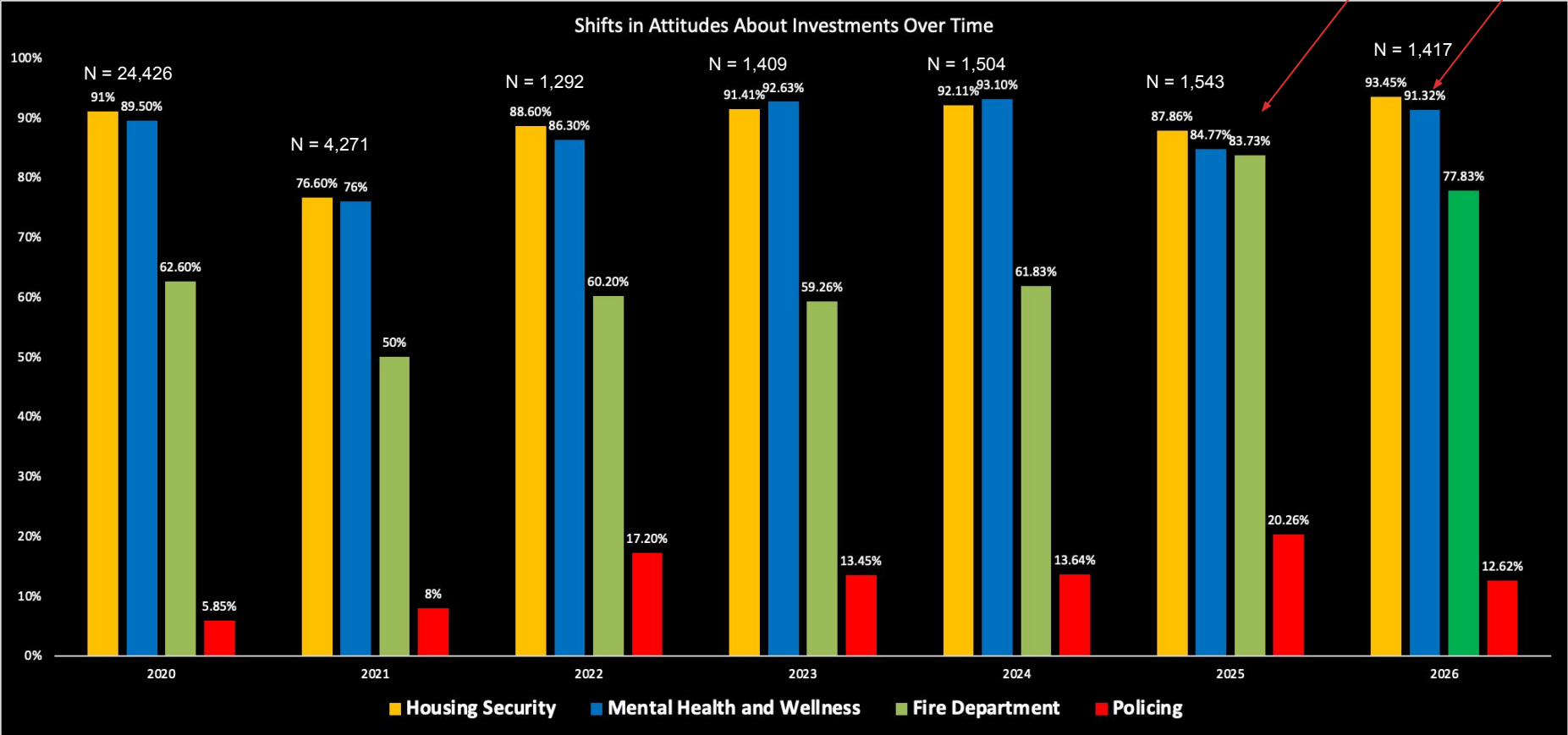
(Showing both divestment and no investment at all)

Law Enforcement Divestment by Area



(Preliminary Results N = 1,417)

People's Budget Over the Years



2020-2026 N = 35,862

**Our data demonstrates a consistent commitment:
invest in people and divest from policing.**

CLOSING & CALLS TO ACTION

Dr. Melina Abdullah

The people continue to voice urgency
around **defunding the police.**



We must **defund the police** and adopt a people's budget.

We must also adopt a community-driven and city-supported **participatory budgeting process** that meaningfully and systematically develops budgeting priorities and investments for LA City.

Learn more and get involved

peoplesbudgetla.com