



Fiscal Year 2026–27 Proposed Budget

2 messages

Lionel

Fri, May 15, 2026 at 8:04 PM

To: Councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org, "Councilmember Bob B." <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, heather.hutt@lacity.org, "cd10@lacity.org" <cd10@lacity.org>, "councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org" <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org
Cc: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org, Matt.Szabo@lacity.org, "sharon.tso@lacity.org" <sharon.tso@lacity.org>
Bcc: armando.bencomo@lacity.org

May 15, 2026

Hon. Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Los Angeles City Council
Budget & Finance Committee

Dear Budget & Finance Committee Members,

I am writing as a resident of Los Angeles to share my thoughts following the conclusion of the **Budget & Finance Committee's 8th hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026–27 Proposed Budget (CF 26-0600)**. . After reviewing hundreds of pages of memos, listening to nearly seven hours of public comment, and hearing extensive discussions with department leadership, I want to express my appreciation for the significant work that has gone into this process.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, as well as the full committee. I also appreciate the contributions of City Administrative Officer Matt Szabo, Chief Legislative Analyst Sharon Tso, and Assistant CLA John Wickham for their detailed analysis and guidance throughout the hearings.

As a resident, I am increasingly concerned about staff shortages, potential layoffs, and the impact these challenges may have on essential city services. Many departments are already operating with long-standing vacancies, and further reductions could significantly affect service delivery. I strongly support continued investment in civilian hiring for non-sworn positions and efforts to fill vacancies that directly support the day-to-day functioning of our city.

I also look forward to the recommendations from the **Budget & Finance Advisory Committee**, chaired by former City Controller **Ron Galperin**. Their insights will be important as the City works to balance fiscal responsibility with the need to maintain critical services.

Additionally, I am concerned about overspending in certain departments (e.g. **LAPD**) and the rising cost of **liability payouts**, which place pressure on the broader budget and limit the City's ability to fund essential services and staffing. I hope the Council will continue to explore strategies to manage these costs while protecting the workforce and maintaining service levels.

I respectfully urge your office to prioritize solutions that preserve city services, support employees, and ensure that Los Angeles remains responsive to the needs of its residents. Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to a transparent and thoughtful budget process.

Sincerely,

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LIONEL MARES, MPA
Los Angeles, CA

Lionel

Sat, May 16, 2026 at 6:20 AM

To: Councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org, "Councilmember Bob B." <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, heather.hutt@lacity.org, cd10@lacity.org, councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org, Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org
Cc: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org, Matt.Szabo@lacity.org, sharon.tso@lacity.org

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Budget Hearings - 5/15/26
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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LIONEL MARES, MPA
Los Angeles, CA