


District 23

Council Member Mark Weprin



SMART Boards for District Schools



Installation of Fitness Equipment at Cunningham Park



Portable security cameras



Security Upgrades for Fresh Meadows, Hollis, and Windsor Park Libraries



Technology upgrades for District Schools

Queens

District 23

Council Member Mark Weprin

Council Member Mark Weprin's district spans fourteen Queens neighborhoods, including Hollis Hills, Queens Village, Bellerose, Fresh Meadows and Oakland Gardens. The majority of district residents (53%) primarily speak a language other than English (11% Spanish and 42% other languages).* 39% of people in the district identify as Asian. In addition, 33% of the district is White, 15% Hispanic or Latino/a and 13% Black or African-American. A quarter of residents over 25 report that they have a high school diploma or GED, and 63% have at least some college education. Slightly more than a third (34%) of district residents have household incomes over \$100,000.

This is the second cycle in which District 23 has participated in the process. **Participation in the process nearly doubled from last cycle to this one.** The demographics of participants were similar to last cycle, with some increase in participants of color, Spanish-speakers, adults with less than a high-school diploma, people with household incomes below \$50,000, and people with barriers to voting. The majority of projects on the district's ballot related to schools and libraries, with others for parks and recreation, community facilities, public safety and public transportation.

"Participatory budgeting has proven to be a tremendous success in engaging and empowering local residents."⁷³

(Council Member Mark Weprin, District 23)

District 23 Overall

Population:

152,416

Number of PB

Participants:

2,212

Compared to 1,273 in Cycle 1

Neighborhoods:

Hollis Hills

Queens Village

Little Neck

Douglaston

Bayside

Bellerose

Floral Park

Glen Oaks

New Hyde Park

Hollis

Hollis Park

Gardens

Holliswood

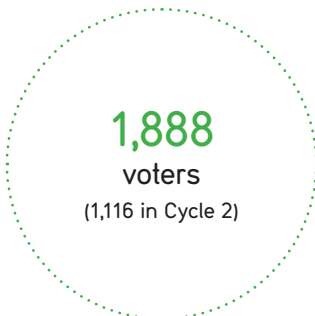
Fresh Meadows

Oakland Gardens

* Note that the secondary data used throughout this section derives from several sources: the 2010 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey 2008-2012 five year estimates are used for demographic data of district residents, and data about 2013 local election voters comes from the Voter activation Network and Catalist. For more on these data sources, see the appendix of this report.

Who Participated in District 23?

In District 23, PB engaged 2,212 people, including: 349 neighborhood assembly participants, 50 budget delegates, and 1,888 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



Race/Ethnicity

- District 23 saw an overall increase in PB voters of color (47% this cycle, compared to 40% last cycle). However, people identifying as Asian, Black or African-American or Latino/a were underrepresented compared with their percentages of the overall voting-age district population.
 - 9% of PB voters identified as Black or African-American, compared with 11% of voting-age district residents. This compares with 8% of PB voters last cycle.
 - 10% of PB voters identified as Hispanic or Latino/a, compared with 13% of voting-age district residents. This compares to 6% of PB voters last cycle.
 - 21% of PB voters identified as Asian, compared with 35% of voting-age district residents. This compares with 22% of PB voters last cycle. This compares to 12% of voters in the 2013 local elections.
- Participants who identified as White made up the majority of neighborhood assembly participants (53%) and voters (55%). These rates of participation are slightly lower than the share of White voters in the 2013 local elections (58%).



Language and Country of Birth

- People whose primary language was English were overrepresented in the PB process: 93% of neighborhood assembly participants and 92% of voters reported English as a primary language, compared with 46% of the voting-age district population. This compares with 89% of voters last cycle.
- 4% of neighborhood assembly participants and voters listed Spanish as a primary language, an increase from 1% of voters last cycle. This compares with 12% of voting-age district residents.

47% of PB voters identified as people of color.
Compared to 40% in Cycle 2.

- 23% of neighborhood assembly participants and 31% of PB voters reported they were born outside the U.S., compared with 29% of voters last cycle and 56% of voting-age district residents.



Gender

- Women were more likely to vote in PB than men in District 23, and women voted at higher rates in PB (62%) than in the 2013 local elections (54%).



Income

- According to survey data, the household income of neighborhood assembly participants and PB voters was similar to the overall voting-age population of the district.
- The household income of PB voters this cycle was similar to last, with a slight increase in voters with household incomes under \$50,000 (35% of voters this cycle, compared with 31% in Cycle 2). This compares with 34% of district households.



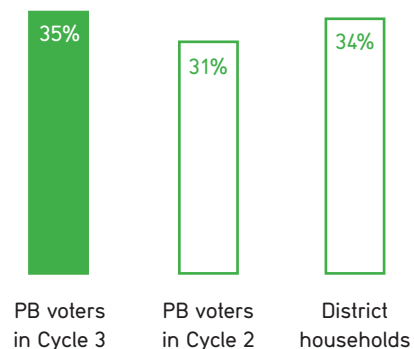
Age

- Nearly a third (32%) of neighborhood assembly participants were 15-17 years old, as compared to 5% of PB-eligible district residents.* District 23 held targeted assemblies with high school students, which contributed to these numbers. 7% of PB voters were under 18.
- Young people between the ages of 15 and 25 voted in PB at a rate equal to their representation in the general population. A greater percentage of young people voted in Cycle 3 (12%) than in Cycle 2 (7%).
- People over the age of 65 were overrepresented in the PB process, making up 28% of neighborhood assembly participants and 35% of voters compared with 19% of the district population.

21% of PB voters identified as Asian.

Compared to 22% in Cycle 2, 35% of voting-age district residents, and 12% of voters in local elections.

Voters reporting household incomes under \$50,000



32% of neighborhood assembly participants were 15-17 years old.

Compared to 5% of PB-eligible district residents.

* Note that for comparisons of age, the Census data used was for district residents ages 15 and above. This is the closest approximation of PB-eligible residents that is available.



Education

- 5% of Cycle 3 voters over the age of 25 had less than a high school diploma, compared with 1% of Cycle 2 voters. This compares with 12% of the district population.
- People with graduate or professional degrees were overrepresented in the PB process when compared to the general population (37% of neighborhood assembly participants and 31 % of voters, compared with 15% of the general population).

Community members line up to cast their ballots in District 23.



What were the civic engagement patterns of PB participants in District 23?

Previous Engagement with PB

- 87% of PB voters said that the only way in which they participated in Cycle 3 was through the PB vote. This is comparable to last cycle.
- 32% of neighborhood assembly participants and 17% of PB voters had participated in the previous cycle of PB.

Voting Patterns and Barriers

- 41% of neighborhood assembly participants and 13% of voters said they were not registered to vote because they were not eligible. This compares to 7% of neighborhood assembly participants and 9% of voters last cycle.
- 5% of voters and neighborhood assembly participants said they were not eligible to vote because they were not a U.S. citizen.
- 62% of PB voters and 48% of neighborhood assembly participants said they always vote in local elections. This compares with 72% of PB voters and 70% of neighborhood assembly participants last cycle.

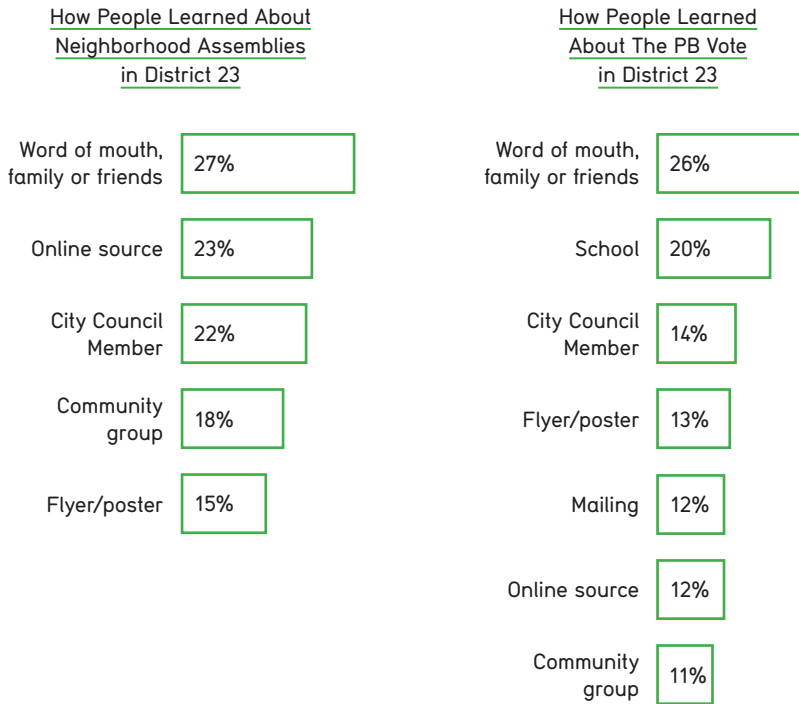
Working with Others in the Community

- 54% of neighborhood assembly participants and 72% of voters said they had never worked with others to solve community problems outside of PB. This compares with 39% of neighborhood assembly participants and 57% of voters last cycle.

5% of PB voters and neighborhood assembly participants said they were not eligible to vote because they were not a U.S. citizen.

How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 23?

District 23 participants were most likely to hear about PB through their social networks: family, friends or word of mouth. Many participants also heard about the process through the Council Member. Community groups were important for getting the word out, particularly for the neighborhood assemblies. Online sources and outreach through flyers and posters also helped promote PB in the district, and schools* played an important role during the vote.



* Note that school was not an answer option on the neighborhood assembly survey.

District 23 residents learn about the PB process at a Neighborhood Assembly.



What were the priorities of District 23 PB voters, what projects made it to the ballot, and what won the vote?

In September and October of 2013, District 23 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods.

Following the neighborhood assemblies, participants volunteered to be budget delegates and formed committees to develop specific projects from the ideas proposed at the neighborhood assemblies. This work resulted in the District 23 PB ballot.

The following table shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 23.

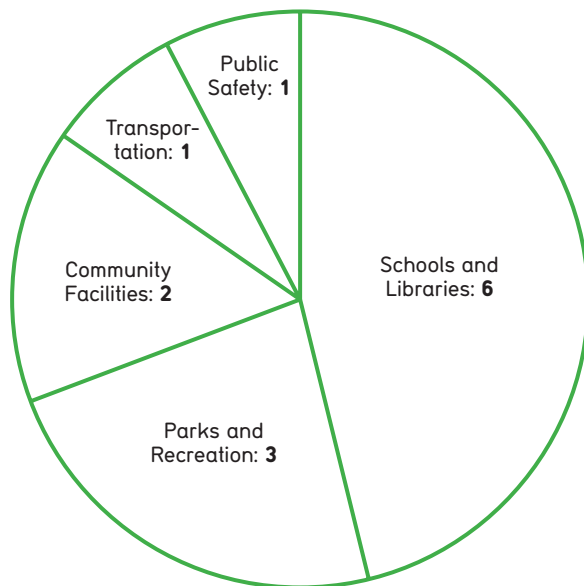
13
Projects listed
on the ballot

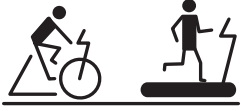
5
Projects
selected by
voters

Projects on District 23 Ballot

Total Number: 13

Average Cost: \$221,413





A Winning Project from District 23

Installation of Fitness Equipment at Cunningham Park
 \$200,000
 875 out of 1,888 votes

Cunningham Park, one of the largest parks in Queens,⁷⁴ is a community resource providing open space, entertainment and opportunities for health and wellness activities.

This project will allow visitors to the park to benefit from new fitness amenities, with the installation of a fitness walk and exercise loop.

These upgrades are not the first that the park has received through the participatory budgeting process. Last cycle, two projects—the enhancement of a picnic area and a music stage— won funding through the PB process as well.

Winning Projects

5 Winning Projects: District 23

1,888 voters cast a ballot for up to five projects in District 23. The following table shows the projects that were selected.

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Voters</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Cost</u>
SMART Boards for District Schools	1116	59%	\$450,000
Installation of Fitness Equipment at Cunningham Park	875	46%	\$200,000
Portable Security Cameras	718	38%	\$105,000
Technology Upgrades for District Schools	699	37%	\$85,785
Security Upgrades for Fresh Meadows, Hollis, and Windsor Park Libraries	671	36%	\$265,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,105,785</u>

Additionally Funded Project

In addition to the winning projects, the Council Member dedicated funds to the following project which was on the PB ballot but did not win. This indicates the additional benefits that PB can bring to the district beyond those projects that win the vote.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Bellerose Reading Garden at Bellerose Playground	\$500,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 23

In its second cycle participating in PB, District 23 engaged nearly twice as many people as the previous cycle, with a total of 2,212 participants. The district saw an overall increase in PB voters of color (47% this cycle, compared with 40% last cycle), though non-White voters were still underrepresented as compared to voting-age district residents. As with last cycle, Asian voters, while underrepresented compared to the district population, voted in PB at a higher rate than the local elections. The income of PB voters was similar to that of district residents', which was also true last cycle. This cycle saw a slight increase in the participation of people with incomes below \$50,000. District 23 held targeted assemblies with high school students this cycle, which contributed to nearly a third of assembly participants being between 15 and 17. People born in the U.S. and English speakers were overrepresented in the process, as with last cycle, though there was a small increase in Spanish-speakers. The provision of translated materials and interpretation at meetings could help engage more non-English speakers in future years. Council Member Weprin dedicated approximately \$1.1 million to the 5 projects selected by his constituents and an additional \$500,000 to one project which was on the PB ballot but did not win.



Residents brainstorm projects for their district at a neighborhood assembly in District 23.

District 23 Demographics

		<u>Census Data</u> Age 18+	<u>Neighborhood Assemblies</u> N=236	<u>Difference Neighborhood Assemblies Years 2 & 3</u>	<u>Budget Delegates</u> N=42	<u>PB Voters</u> N=1,429	<u>Diff. PB Voters Years 2 & 3</u>	<u>Voters in 2013 Local Elections</u>	<u>Difference between PB & 2013 Voters</u>
<u>Gender</u> NA: N=223 BD: N=42 Voters: N=1,396	Female	53%	56%	+6%	67%	62%	-2%	54%	+8%
	Male	47%	44%	-7%	33%	38%	+2%	46%	-8%
	Other	N/A	0%	+0%	0%	0%	+0%	N/A	N/A
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=221 BD: N=42 Voters: N=1,209	Asian	35%	20%	+4%	7%	21%	-1%	12%	+9%
	Black	11%	11%	+0%	7%	9%	+1%	14%	-5%
	Latino/a	13%	13%	+5%	10%	10%	+4%	10%	+0%
	White	35%	53%	-8%	74%	55%	-6%	58%	-3%
	Other	6%	7%	-2%	4%	7%	+3%	1%	+6%
<u>Highest Level of Education</u> NA: N=130 BD: N=39 Voters: N=1,178	Some H.S. or less	12%	1%	-1%	0%	5%	+4%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma/GED	25%	13%	+1%	5%	15%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	16%	27%	+11%	15%	18%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	Associate's Degree	7%	1%	+1%	3%	9%	+8%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	25%	22%	-6%	26%	23%	-9%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	15%	37%	-5%	51%	31%	-3%	N/A	N/A
<u>Household Income</u> NA: N=173 BD: N=38 Voters: N=1,045	Less than \$10,000	4%	5%	+0%	0%	4%	+1%	0%	+4%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	3%	6%	+2%	0%	4%	+1%	0%	+4%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	8%	6%	-2%	5%	7%	+1%	0%	+7%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	8%	11%	+7%	5%	9%	+3%	0%	+9%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	11%	16%	+6%	18%	11%	-2%	4%	7%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	17%	16%	-4%	11%	19%	+0%	66%	-47%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	15%	12%	-2%	16%	15%	-1%	25%	-10%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	20%	17%	-5%	24%	18%	-1%	5%	+13%
	\$150,000 or more	14%	10%	-4%	21%	12%	-3%	0%	+12%
<u>Age</u> NA: N=219 BD: N=40 Voters: N=1,360	15 to 17 years	5%	32%	+27%	0%	7%	+5%	N/A	N/A
	18 to 19 years	2%	6%	+6%	0%	2%	-1%	3%	+2%
	20 to 24 years	7%	2%	+2%	5%	3%	+1%		
	25 to 34 years	16%	4%	+1%	8%	8%	+3%	6%	+2%
	35 to 44 years	16%	4%	-6%	23%	14%	+1%		
	45 to 54 years	20%	7%	-14%	8%	14%	-4%	52%	-6%
	55 to 64 years	16%	17%	-9%	25%	18%	-4%		
	65+ years	19%	28%	-6%	30%	35%	-1%	38%	-3%
<u>Language</u> NA: N=208 BD: N=42 Voters: N=1,354	English	46%	93%	-4%	100%	92%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	12%	4%	+2%	0%	4%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	Other	42%	10%	-7%	0%	6%	-5%	N/A	N/A
<u>Country of Birth</u> NA: N=216 BD: N=41 Voters: N=1,358	United States	44%	78%	N/A	88%	69%	-2%	N/A	N/A
	Puerto Rico	2%	1%	N/A	0%	1%	+1%	N/A	N/A
	Other	54%	22%	N/A	12%	30%	+1%	N/A	N/A