


District 33

Council Member Stephen Levin

Queens

Manhattan

Brooklyn



PS261 Bathroom Renovations



McGolrick Park Playground Reconstruction



BOOKlyn Shuttle



Gowanus Community Center Re-Opening



NYCHA Playground Repairs

District 33

Council Member Stephen Levin

Council Member Stephen Levin's Brooklyn district includes the neighborhoods of Brooklyn Heights, Greenpoint, Boerum Hill and parts of Williamsburg and Bedford Stuyvesant. Three-quarters of the district identifies as White, 15% as Latina/o, 6% as Asian and 6% as Black or African-American.* Half of residents have a Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree. More than half (56%) of residents have an annual income of \$50,000 or more, and nearly a third (31%) earn \$100,000 or more a year. Three fourths of district residents were born in the U.S., and about half (49%) report that English is their primary language, with 16% indicating Spanish and 36% indicating another language.

In its second cycle participating in PB, District 33 was successful in engaging more district residents who identified as Black or African-American, as well as more low-income community members and those with lower levels of formal education. The district saw a small decrease in participation by people born outside the U.S., and an increase in people who listed their primary language as English. The district was successful in engaging community members who live in public housing, by holding assemblies, conducting outreach and setting up mobile vote sites at public housing developments. Public housing tenants, as well as the community organization Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE), conducted outreach and get out the vote work. The district saw a decrease in overall PB participant numbers, indicating a need for ongoing outreach and engagement efforts. District 33's ballot included projects for schools and libraries, park and recreation, community facilities, housing and transportation.

"Participatory Budgeting is a unique opportunity to have a say in the future of our community and it has been great to see so many people get involved."⁷⁸

(Council Member Stephen Levin, District 33)

District 33 Overall

Population:

159,127

Number of PB

Participants:

2,148

Neighborhoods:

Bedford-
Stuyvesant
Brooklyn Heights
Boerum Hill
Downtown
Brooklyn
DUMBO
Greenpoint
Vinegar Hill
Williamsburg

* 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.



17% of PB voters identified as Black or African-American. Compared to 12% in Cycle 2, 6% of district residents, and 10% of voters in local elections.

Who Participated in District 33?

In District 33, PB engaged 2,148 people, including: 182 neighborhood assembly participants, 40 budget delegates, and 1,981 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



Race/Ethnicity

- A greater percentage of people who identified as Black or African-American voted in PB this cycle compared with Cycle 2 (17% this cycle compared with 12% last cycle). This is compared with 6% of district residents and 10% of 2013 local election voters who identified as Black or African-American.
- People who identified as Asian voted in PB at a level consistent with their representation in the voting-age district population (5% of PB voters and 6% of district residents), and higher than in the 2013 local elections (3%). This is comparable with PB voters last cycle (6%).
- 13% of PB voters identified as Latino/a, compared with 15% of voting-age district residents and 11% of local election voters. This is comparable with PB voters last cycle (12%).



Language and Country of Birth

- People who listed English as their primary language were overrepresented among neighborhood assembly participants and PB voters (90% of neighborhood assembly participants and 92% of voters listed English as their primary language, compared with 53% of district residents).
- People who listed English as their primary language made up a greater percentage of voters this cycle, compared with Cycle 2 (92% this cycle compared with 87% in Cycle 2).
- People who were born outside the U.S. were underrepresented at the neighborhood assemblies (17%) and the PB vote (22%) compared to the voting-age district population (32%).



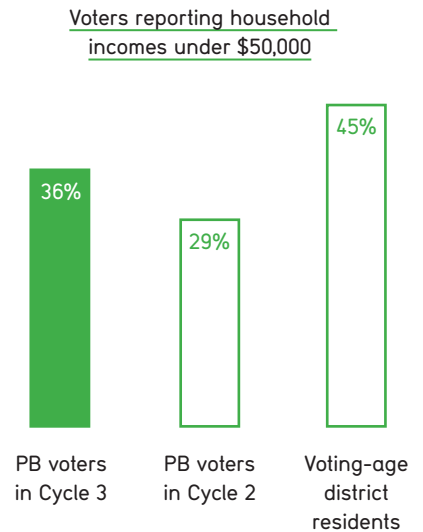
Gender

- Women made up the majority of neighborhood assembly participants (69%) and PB voters (67%).
- Women made up a greater percentage of surveyed PB voters this cycle than in Cycle 2 (67% compared with 62%).
- Women made up a greater percentage of PB voters than voters in the 2013 local elections (67% and 51%, respectively).



Income

- A greater percentage of PB voters reported household incomes below \$50,000 this cycle, compared with Cycle 2 (36% this cycle compared with 29% in Cycle 2). This compares with 45% of the voting-age district population.
- People who reported household incomes below \$50,000 were overrepresented at neighborhood assemblies, compared to the PB voting-age district population (63% compared with 45%).



Age

- Almost half (48%) of neighborhood assembly participants were between 15 and 35, which is consistent with the district population. This compares with 23% percent of PB voters.
- People 65 years and older voted in PB at a higher rate than their representation in PB-eligible* district population, but a lower rate than in the 2013 local elections (14% of PB voters were 65 years or over, compared with 10% of district residents, and 18% of voters in local elections).

36% of PB voters over the age of 25 reported having less than a Bachelor's degree. Compared to 26% in Cycle 2 and 50% of the district population.



Education

- A greater percentage of PB voters over the age of 25 reported having less than a Bachelor's degree this cycle, as compared with Cycle 2 (36% this cycle, compared with 26% in Cycle 2). This compares with 50% of the district population.

* 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.

What were the civic engagement patterns of PB participants in District 33?

Previous Engagement with PB

- 88% of PB voters had not participated in this cycle of PB other than by voting. This is comparable to the percentages of PB voters last cycle who only participated by voting.
- 37% of neighborhood assembly participants and 20% of PB voters had participated in the previous cycle of PB.

Voting Patterns and Barriers

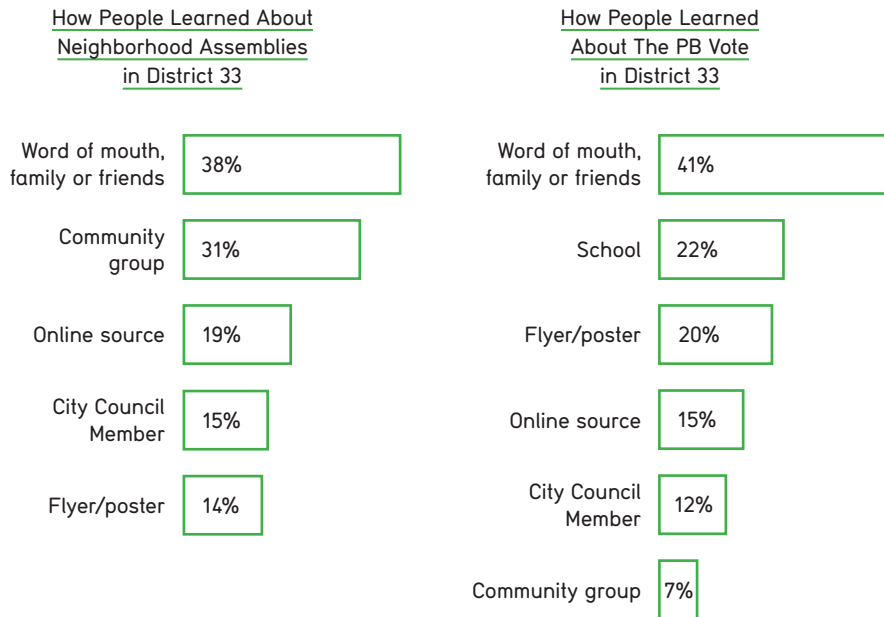
- 86% of neighborhood assembly participants and 90% of PB voters were registered to vote. This compares to 95% of neighborhood assembly attendees and 92% of voters last cycle.
- 4% of neighborhood assembly participants and 7% of PB voters were not registered to vote because they were not U.S. citizens.

Working with Others in the Community

- 44% of neighborhood assembly participants and 61% of voters had never worked with others in their community to solve community problems. This is similar to last cycle, in which 36% of neighborhood assembly attendees and 68% of voters had never worked with others to solve community problems.

How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 33?

Social networks played a major role in getting out the word about PB in District 33, with word of mouth, family and friends being the primary ways people heard about both the neighborhood assemblies and the vote. Community groups also reached many participants, particularly in the neighborhood assembly phase. Using flyers and posters as outreach tools was effective, as was getting out the word through schools,* through the Council Member's office, and using online outreach.



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



A sign advertises the PB vote at Council Member Levin's district office in District 33.



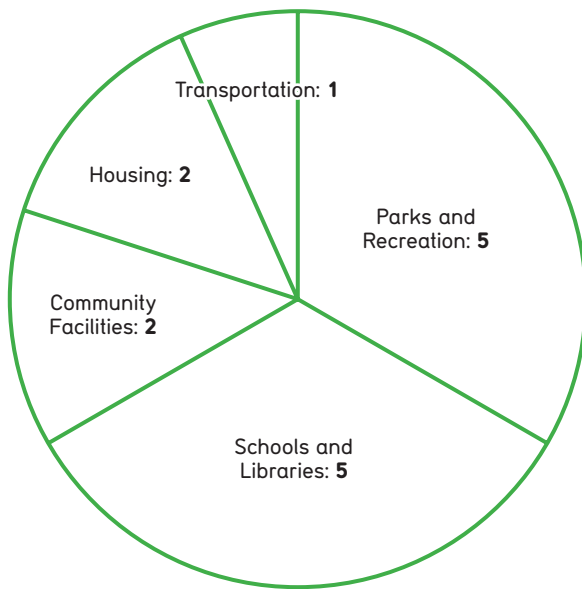
What were the priorities of District 33 PB voters, what projects made it to the ballot, and what won the vote?

In September and October of 2013, District 33 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 33 PB ballot.

The following table shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 33.

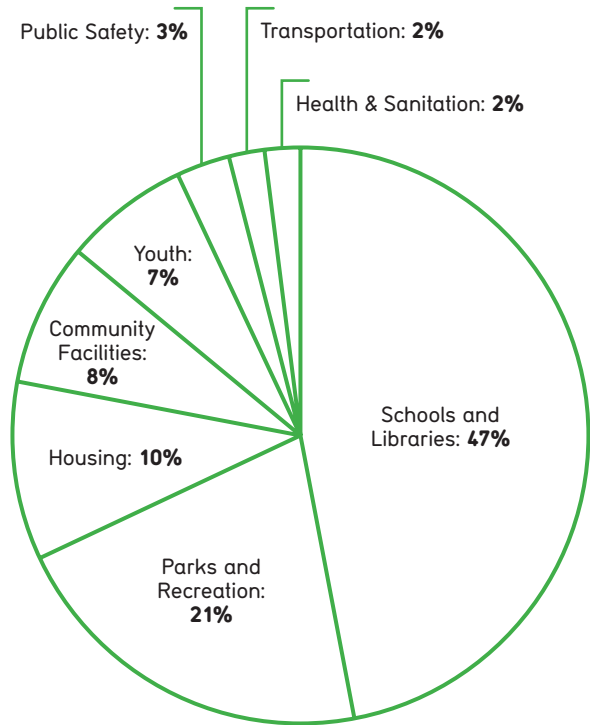
Projects on District 33 Ballot

Total Number: 15
Average Cost: \$238,150



Which category of project that they voted for was most important to District 33 PB voters?

(N=1,239)



Note: One of District 33's projects which was categorized on the PB ballot as Parks & Recreation (NYCHA Playground Repairs) could also appropriately be categorized in the Housing category.

Winning Projects

5 Winning Projects: District 33

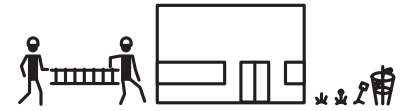
1,981 voters cast a ballot for up to five projects in District 33. The following table shows the projects that were selected.

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Voters</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Cost</u>
NYCHA Playground Repairs	1008	51%	\$400,000
Renovations to Re-Open the Gowanus Community Center	706	36%	\$325,000
McGolrick Park Playground Reconstruction	649	33%	\$450,000
BOOKlyn Shuttle – Book Bus and Education Center	636	32%	\$198,000
PS 261 Bathroom Renovations	625	32%	\$175,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,548,000</u>

Additionally Funded Project

In addition to the winning projects, the Council Member dedicated funds to the following project which was on the ballot but did not win. This indicates the additional benefits that PB can bring to the district beyond those projects that win the vote. According to the Council Member’s office, an additional PB project—fencing for a playground in Thomas Green Park—will be funded through the redistribution of capital discretionary funds that had already been allocated by the Council Member to the park. PB helped to identify this particular need and guide the priorities for those previously awarded funds.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow – Computer Lab	\$50,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>



A Winning Project from District 33

Renovations to Re-Open the Gowanus Community Center
\$325,000
706 out of 1,981 votes

The nearly 3,000 residents⁷⁹ of Gowanus Houses, a public housing complex, have not had an operational community center for years. The funding from this project will be put toward the renovations necessary to reopen the center, reinstating a crucial resource for residents.

The importance of such a space in the community was made clear in the aftermath of Hurricane sandy, which left many residents of Gowanus Houses and their neighbors stranded without heat, hot water, or functioning elevators. In this period of crisis the community center was temporarily opened, and served as a space for collecting and disseminating supplies, sharing information, and coordinating relief efforts.

Reopening the community center will allow it to serve its purpose as a resource for Gowanus Houses residents, and also for the broader community. “For ten years the Gowanus Center has been closed,” said Carrie Gadsen, Sargent of Arms for the Gowanus Houses Tenant Association. “But during Sandy the center was a relief center...we want to open it up to be a cooling center, plus other activities for the children, the elderly...a computer lab.”⁸⁰

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 33

In its second cycle participating in PB, District 33 was successful in engaging more residents who identify as Black or African-American, as well as lower income residents and those with lower levels of formal education. People identifying as Asian, Black or Latino/a constituted a greater percentage of PB voters than voters in the 2013 local elections. The district also saw active participation by public housing residents. There was a decrease in participation by residents whose primary language is not English, indicating that the district would benefit in the future from the provision of additional translated materials and interpretation at meetings. The district saw a small decrease in participation this cycle, pointing to the need for ongoing outreach and engagement efforts. Council Member Stephen Levin allocated over \$1.5 million to the 5 winning projects in the district, and an additional \$50,000 toward one project that was on the ballot but did not win.



A neighborhood assembly at a community garden in District 33.

District 33 Demographics

		<u>Census</u> <u>Data</u> Age 18+	<u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> N=153	<u>Difference</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> <u>Years 2 & 3</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Delegates</u> N=23	<u>PB</u> <u>Voters</u> N=1,399	<u>Diff. PB</u> <u>Voters</u> <u>Years</u> <u>2 & 3</u>	<u>Voters in</u> <u>2013 Local</u> <u>Elections</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>between</u> <u>PB & 2013</u> <u>Voters</u>
<u>Gender</u> NA: N=144 BD: N=23 Voters: N=1,377	Female	51%	69%	-2%	65%	67%	+5%	51%	+16%
	Male	49%	29%	+0%	35%	33%	-5%	49%	-16%
	Other	N/A	2%	+2%	0%	0%	+0%	N/A	N/A
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=145 BD: N=23 Voters: N=1,236	Asian	6%	1%	-3%	0%	5%	-1%	3%	+2%
	Black	6%	27%	-10%	13%	17%	+5%	10%	+7%
	Latino/a	15%	31%	+11%	9%	13%	+1%	11%	+2%
	White	71%	43%	+2%	74%	64%	-5%	75%	-11%
	Other	2%	4%	+2%	4%	4%	+1%	0%	+4%
<u>Highest Level</u> <u>of Education</u> NA: N=93 BD: N=20 Voters: N=1,286	Some H.S. or less	14%	8%	+2%	5%	7%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma/GED	19%	7%	-6%	10%	12%	+1%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	12%	9%	-5%	20%	10%	+0%	N/A	N/A
	Associate's Degree	5%	7%	+3%	5%	6%	+5%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	27%	26%	+2%	25%	30%	-9%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	23%	44%	+5%	35%	34%	-2%	N/A	N/A
<u>Household</u> <u>Income</u> NA: N=129 BD: N=23 Voters: N=1,169	Less than \$10,000	10%	19%	+3%	9%	7%	+1%	13%	-6%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	7%	11%	+1%	17%	5%	+0%	1%	+4%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	10%	10%	+0%	13%	7%	+3%	11%	-4%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	8%	11%	-5%	13%	7%	+1%	7%	+0%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	10%	12%	+3%	9%	10%	+2%	7%	+3%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	14%	13%	+3%	17%	13%	+1%	22%	-9%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	11%	14%	+3%	9%	12%	+1%	24%	-12%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	13%	5%	-9%	0%	15%	-2%	11%	+4%
\$150,000 or more	18%	5%	+0%	13%	24%	-8%	5%	19%	
<u>Age</u> NA: N=141 BD: N=23 Voters: N=1,371	15 to 17 years	4%	1%	-19%	0%	1%	+1%	N/A	N/A
	18 to 19 years	3%	14%	+11%	0%	1%	+0%	6%	-3%
	20 to 24 years	10%	18%	+16%	13%	2%	+1%		
	25 to 34 years	31%	15%	-2%	39%	19%	-1%	24%	-5%
	35 to 44 years	19%	14%	-1%	9%	33%	+0%		
	45 to 54 years	13%	4%	-9%	9%	20%	+1%	52%	+12%
	55 to 64 years	10%	12%	-3%	13%	11%	-2%		
65+ years	10%	21%	+5%	17%	14%	+0%	18%	-4%	
<u>Language</u> NA: N=137 BD: N=23 Voters: N=1,352	English	53%	90%	-4%	100%	92%	+5%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	16%	12%	+2%	0%	5%	+1%	N/A	N/A
	Other	31%	7%	+0%	0%	6%	-3%	N/A	N/A
<u>Country of Birth</u> NA: N=142 BD: N=23 Voters: N=1,329	United States	68%	83%	N/A	96%	78%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	Puerto Rico	5%	6%	N/A	0%	3%	+0%	N/A	N/A
	Other	27%	11%	N/A	4%	19%	-3%	N/A	N/A