



KEY DATA FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NEW YORK CITY 2012-2013

BY THE NUMBERS

- **OVERALL**
 - 8 Council Members allocated a total of **\$9.4 million** of capital funds
 - Engaged **14,000** residents in participatory budgeting (PB)
- **NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLIES**
 - **1,546** residents attended 43 assemblies and suggested over 1,500 project ideas.
- **BUDGET DELEGATES**
 - Over **280** volunteers selected 121 projects for the PB ballot.
- **VOTE**
 - Over **13,035** residents voted and selected 45 winning projects (\$9.4 million).

METHODOLOGY

The data collection and analysis for this year's New York City participatory budgeting process was coordinated by **the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center**. An advisory board comprised of academics from CUNY, Pratt Institute, Queens College and Marymount Manhattan College provided input and guidance on research design. **Community Voices Heard** and **The Participatory Budgeting Project** served as overall coordinators of the PB process.

To date, researchers have collected:

- 924 surveys at 43 neighborhood assemblies;
- 7,300 surveys from PB voters;
- 82 exit interviews with PB voters;
- 25 interviews with budget delegates (expecting to conduct 50 more);
- 31 meeting observations.

KEY TRENDS FROM VOTER SURVEYS

PB brings people that are disillusioned with government into the political process:

- More than half (52%) of PB voters disapprove with how government business is conducted in the NYC government.

PB creates new civic participants:

- Half of the voters had not worked with anyone in their community to solve a community problem before voting in PB.



- One-third of PB not likely general election voters (reported that they rarely vote, sometimes miss or never vote).
- About 40% of PB Voters reported that they are not members of any groups or associations.
- Over 600 voters had barriers to vote in general elections (non-citizens, people under 18, ex-offenders):
 - About 500 voters identified as non-citizens; 125 were under 18; 21 identified as ex-offenders.

PB mobilizes long term residents:

- 68% have lived in neighborhood for more than 8 years; 46% more than 15 years.

Other characteristics of voters:

- New to participatory budgeting
 - 72% of PB voters didn't vote in last year's PB process (only includes Districts 8, 32, 39 and 45)
- Gender
 - Over 60% of voters were women.
- Race/Ethnicity
 - Citywide, more than a third of PB voters were people of color.
 - White: 64%
 - Black: 12%
 - Latino: 14%
 - Asian: 8%
 - District 8:
 - 53% of PB voters identified as Latino/a compared to 39% of voters in the 2009 local elections.
 - District 45:
 - 89% of PB voters identified as Black compared to 79% of voters in the 2009 local elections.
- Country of Origin/Language
 - 24% of PB voters were born outside of U.S.
 - 14% speak a language other than English at home.
- Income
 - Citywide, 23% of voters reported household incomes below \$35,000.
 - District 45:
 - 16% of PB voters had incomes below \$15,000 compared to only 2% of voters in the 2009 local elections
 - District 8:
 - 40% of PB voters had incomes below \$15,000 compared to 28% of voters in the 2009 local elections