

# District 19

Council Member Dan Halloran

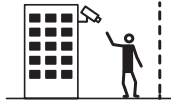
Bronx



Structural Restoration of Poppenhusen Institute



MacNeil Park Rehabilitation



Police Cameras



Kayak and Canoe Launches



Art Room Renovation at PS 98



Special Needs Playground Equipment



SMART Boards at PS 32/129/130/159/184/193 Bell Academy

Queens

# District 19

## Council Member Dan Halloran

Council Member Dan Halloran's district includes the Queens neighborhoods of College Point, Auburndale-Flushing, Bayside, Whitestone, Bay Terrace, Douglaston and Little Neck. Just over half of the residents of the district identify as White, 28% Asian and 15% as Hispanic or Latino/a.<sup>54</sup> The district has a large immigrant population, 39% of residents are foreign born and 54% primarily speak a language other than English. The population of the district also has a large senior population, 17% are 65 years of age or older and 50% of residents have a household income over \$75,000.<sup>55</sup>

In District 19's first year of PB, participation was mostly consistent with the demographics of the district. Participation among older and well-educated residents was somewhat high, while participation among non-English speakers and Hispanic or Latino/as was low. Since the district does not have any subway lines, there were many project proposals around transportation issues, such as street repairs and traffic signals. Besides transportation projects, improvements to schools, libraries and parks were other areas that received considerable attention through the PB process. Although the councilmember was arrested the week before the PB vote, the process continued with strong community support.

*"I'd say that some of the community got a better understanding of what capital and expense funding is. Many people think the city has the ability to just hand out money to whoever they want."*

— **Erica Goldstein**, Budget Director and Constituent Liason,  
Office of Dan Halloran, District 19

### District 19 Overall

#### Population:

155,237<sup>56</sup>

#### Number of PB

#### Participants:

1,191

#### Neighborhoods:

College Point

Auburndale-

Flushing

Bayside

Whitestone

Bay Terrace

Douglaston

Little Neck

## Who Participated in District 19?

In District 19, PB engaged 1,191 people, including: 90 neighborhood assembly participants, 17 budget delegates and 1,170 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:

1,191  
people

90  
neighborhood  
assembly  
participants

17  
Budget  
Delegates

1,170  
voters

Asians made up 31% of neighborhood assembly participants

(Compared to 28% of the overall population of the district)



### Race/Ethnicity

- The majority of participants in all phases of PB in District 19 identified as White.
- A higher percentage of Asians were neighborhood assembly participants (31%) compared to the overall population of the district (28%).



### Language and Country of Birth

- 17% of PB voters reported that they were born outside of the U.S. compared to 37% of the overall population of the district.
- 13% of neighborhood assembly participants and 12% of PB voters primarily speak a language other than English at home compared with 54% of the overall population of the district.



### Gender

- Women were more likely to participate in all stages of the PB process than men.
- Women made up a larger share of PB voters (65%) than 2009 local election voters (54%).<sup>57</sup>
- Men were more likely to participate as the PB process moved forward.



### Income

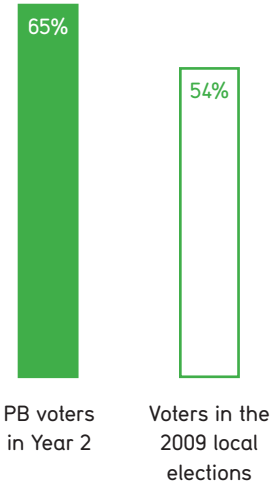
- People with incomes under \$35,000 participated less as the PB process moved forward.
- People with incomes above \$75,000 voted in PB at a higher percentage than in the 2009 local elections.<sup>58</sup>



### Age

- People over the age of 65 were more likely to participate as the PB process moved forward.
- Young people (ages 15 to 24) were underrepresented throughout the PB process compared with the overall population of the district.

### Women's share of the vote



Budget delegates discuss the viability of projects proposed at the neighborhood assemblies.

### Youth in the 19th district

For Year 2 of Participatory Budgeting, the voting age was lowered from 18 to 16. As a result, across the eight districts, more youth under the age of 18 went to neighborhood assemblies, served as budget delegates, and voted than in Year 1.

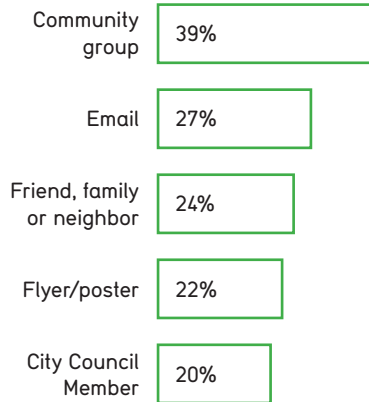
Most of the youth who became involved with PB did so in affiliation with a community organization or educational initiative. For example, in District 19 and 23, the community group Minkwon Center worked with youth to form a budget delegate committee where they developed project proposals. One student said of PB: "it's empowering...You can have a say in the community, as to how it can be shaped and what can be done for it."<sup>59</sup>

In District 19, many of the youth are second-generation immigrants, and are starting to discuss problems relating to their schools and local government. Almost half of the youth in District 19 participating in PB reported already being involved in their community. Another student said, "I think that PB is a very good opportunity to get involved because you have the chance to show up and speak for your community and contribute to help it."<sup>60</sup>

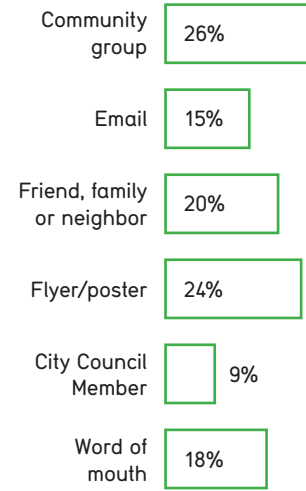
## How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 19?

In District 19, people were most likely to hear about PB through a community group. People also commonly found out about the process by seeing flyers or posters, from friends and family and by e-mail.

### How People Learned About Neighborhood Assemblies in District 19



### How People Learned About The PB Vote in District 19



Residents of District 19 at a neighborhood assembly ask questions after the opening presentation.



# What projects were proposed in District 19, what made it on to the ballot and what won the vote?

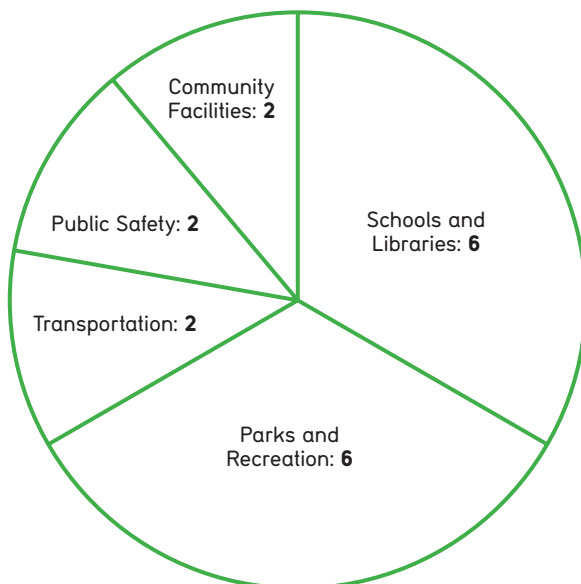
In September and October of 2012, District 19 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods. This process produced 45 project ideas, of which 19 were ultimately deemed eligible for PB.

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. During this process, which included months of research, consultation with government agencies and deliberation, the 45 ideas were whittled down to 18 projects that were put on the ballot. The graph below shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 19.



## Projects on District 19 Ballot

Total Number: 18  
Total Cost: \$3,440,000  
Average Cost: \$191,111





### Winning Project

SMART Boards in 7 Public Schools  
 \$245,000  
 347 out of 1,170 votes

Thanks to the Education Committee in District 19, seven public schools in District 19 will be receiving the benefits of SMART Boards in their classrooms. SMART Boards are touch-screen blackboards connected to hard-drives, enabling teachers to save notes from past lessons, access the internet in the classroom, highlight and clip information, and engage students of different learning types in a variety of ways.

Best of all, instead of pitting different schools against one another for funding, District 19's Education Committee ensured that children throughout the district would benefit from the project by devising a plan to award four to six SMART Boards to one middle school and six elementary schools each. Moreover, in a world of rapidly changing technology, it may prove more economical to upgrade each school's digital capabilities often, rather than provide a single school with thirty computers that will soon be obsolete.

## Winning Projects

1,170 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects in District 19. Table 3 shows the projects that were selected.

Table 3  
7 Winning Projects: District 19

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Price</u>
Structural Restoration of Poppenhusen Institute	614	52%	\$250,000
MacNeil Park Rehabilitation	383	33%	\$100,000
Police Cameras	360	31%	\$35,000
Kayak and Canoe Launches	354	30%	\$150,000
SMART Boards at PS 32/129/130/159/184/193 Bell Academy	347	30%	\$245,000
Special Needs Playground Equipment	313	27%	\$150,000
Art Room Renovation at PS 98	220	19%	\$65,000
<u>Total</u>			\$995,000

## Additional Funded Projects

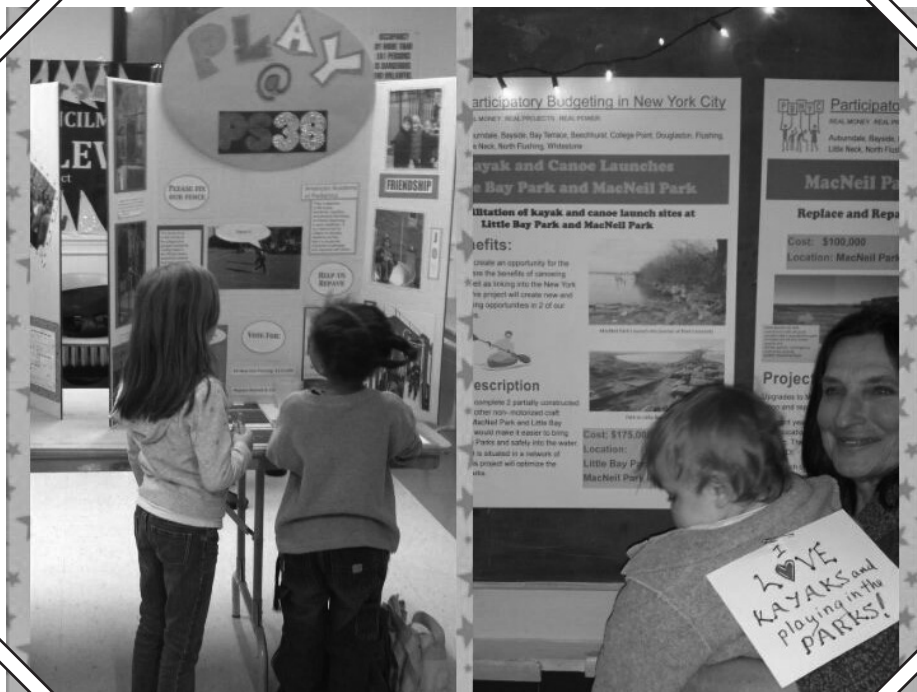
In addition, the following proposed projects either did not win the PB vote or could not be funded through PB because of a budgeting technicality. These projects will be funded by another pot of non-PB money and indicate the additional benefits that PB can bring to the district beyond those projects that win the vote.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Fort Totten Park Sidewalk Improvements	\$100,000
Bird Watching Platform at Osprey Landing and Beautification of Parson's Beach	\$100,000
Upgrade Bayside Historical Society "Officer's Club"	\$150,000
Mobile Computer Cart PS 31/32/41/79/159	\$175,000
Wi-Fi Classroom PS 98/130/184/193/Bell Academy	\$350,000

## Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 19

Joining PB for Year 2, the data collected from participants in District 19 show that participation was fairly consistent with the overall demographics of the district. People who identified as White and had college or graduate degrees were slightly overrepresented compared to the overall population of the district, but the large Asian immigrant community also made up a significant portion of participants. Community groups were a key outreach resource for District 19 in its first year of participating in PB. Participants were more likely to have heard about PB through a community group than any other method. Flyers and posters throughout the district also proved effective in getting the word out about PB meetings and the vote. At PB meetings, many projects were proposed around school improvements, park improvements and transportation infrastructure. Although only seven of the 18 projects on the ballot officially won, all of the Council Member's discretionary funds were allocated towards projects from PB. This led to five additional projects receiving funding.

Young residents of District 19 learn about the projects that will be on the ballot in their district.



### Community Fight for PB Allocation After the Arrest of Council Member Halloran

On April 2nd 2013, just days before the Participatory Budgeting vote was to be held, Council member Daniel Halloran (R-19) was arrested along with State Senator Malcolm Smith and four others. He was accused of trying to rig the Republican ballot line of NYC's mayoral election for Malcolm Smith and agreeing to steer \$80,000 in discretionary funds to a company in exchange for bribes. He later plead not guilty to these charges.<sup>[i]</sup> Even after the arrest, more than 1,170 residents of District 19 cast their votes for Participatory Budgeting projects, despite remarks by City Council speaker Christine Quinn, who said, "Council member Halloran will have no input in how funds are distributed in his district, period, end of conversation."<sup>[ii]</sup> Not only did these residents understand the importance of voting for PB projects, they also fought to ensure that the winning projects would receive funding.

Residents that had been participating in PB created a sign-on letter to City Council Speaker Chris Quinn and Chair Council's Queens Delegation, Leroy Comrie, calling on them "to honor our work and the wishes of the local residents by funding those projects that received the most votes in last week's participatory budgeting process."<sup>[iii]</sup> The group noted that "Council Member Halloran's arrest should not impede the participatory budgeting process and his constituents should not be punished—especially when participatory budgeting is a proven method for injecting transparency, accountability, and democracy into the budget process, and can ward off the risk of corruption that plagues the member item system."<sup>[iv]</sup> Residents took ownership over the PB process and in the end, the advocacy paid off, and all seven of the winning PB projects were funded in the final budget.<sup>[v]</sup> The arrest also sparked an important public dialogue about City Council member items and several public officials highlighted participatory budgeting as a key example of how to counteract corruption and fraud in city spending.<sup>[vi]</sup>



## 19th District Demographics

		<u>Census</u> <u>Data</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> N=59	<u>Budget</u> <u>Delegates</u> N=29	<u>PB</u> <u>Voters</u> N=682	<u>Voters in</u> <u>2009 Local</u> <u>Elections</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>between</u> <u>PB &amp; 2009</u> <u>Voters</u>
<u>Gender</u> NA: N=56 BD: N=28 Voters: N=670	Female	52%	75%	57%	63%	54%	+9%
	Male	48%	25%	36%	37%	46%	-9%
	Other	N/A	0%	7%	0%	N/A	N/A
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=52 BD: N=26 Voters: N=608	Asian	28%	31%	8%	13%	16%	-3%
	Black	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	-1%
	Latino/a	15%	10%	8%	5%	9%	-4%
	White	53%	64%	69%	80%	65%	+15%
	Other	2%	0%	15%	2%	1%	+2%
<u>Highest Level</u> <u>of Education</u> NA: N=44 BD: N=18 Voters: N=541	Some High School or less	13%	0%	3%	2%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	26%	16%	3%	17%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	6%	2%	0%	1%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	16%	11%	24%	16%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	24%	34%	31%	35%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	15%	36%	38%	30%	N/A	N/A
<u>Income</u> NA: N=44 BD: N=25 Voters: N=563	Less than \$10,000	4%	2%	4%	1%	0%	+1%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	3%	2%	0%	3%	0%	+3%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	8%	5%	4%	5%	0%	+5%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	8%	11%	0%	4%	1%	+3%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	11%	18%	8%	11%	24%	-13%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	16%	14%	20%	15%	65%	-50%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	15%	11%	20%	17%	9%	+8%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	19%	25%	12%	23%	1%	+22%
	\$150,000 or more	16%	11%	32%	23%	0%	+23%
<u>Age</u> NA: N=47 BD: N=18 Voters: N=559	14 years or under	17%	2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	6%	2%	0%	1%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	6%	2%	0%	1%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	13%	13%	6%	5%	6%	-1%
	35 to 44 years	14%	28%	22%	17%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	15%	15%	17%	18%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	13%	15%	6%	19%	N/A	N/A
	65+ years	17%	23%	50%	88%	39%	+0%
<u>Language</u> NA: N=54 BD: N=29 Voters: N=661	English	46%	93%	97%	86%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	13%	0%	3%	2%	N/A	N/A
	Other	42%	9%	0%	5%	N/A	N/A