

District 23

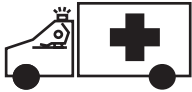
Council Member Mark Weprin



Queens County Farm Museum
roof repair



Martin Van Buren High School
Technology Upgrade



Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance
Corps emergency equipment



Cunningham Park
music stage



Cunningham Park
enhancement of
picnic area



Portable Security Cameras

Queens

District 23

Council Member Mark Weprin

Council Member Mark Weprin's district includes 14 Queens neighborhoods including Hollis Hills, Queens Village, Bellerose, Fresh Meadows and Oakland Gardens. The district has the second largest Asian population of all NYC Council districts, 37% of residents identify as Asian. Additionally, 31% of the district is White, 14% Hispanic or Latino/a and 12% Black or African American.⁶¹ 56% of residents have at least some college education and 33% have household incomes over \$100,000.⁶²

Participation in PB in District 23 was weighted towards well-educated, White residents, especially as the process moved forward; 61% of PB voters identified as White and 66% reported having a college or graduate degree. At neighborhood assemblies, 12% of participants identified as Black or African American and 11% as Hispanic or Latino/a similar to the overall population of the district. At the neighborhood assemblies many projects were proposed around park and public space improvements, community programs and school improvements.

"PB really allows us to engage a broad spectrum of the community in ways we never had before. Typically, people contact the office when they need help, and we have a robust constituent services operation that helps many people every day. But by definition, that's just a limited number of people. So PB allows us to reach out to a broader group, to people who care about civic engagement; to people who want a say in the City budget. I think that is the biggest benefit, for local residents to be active in the civic process and engage with others in the community."

— **Ari Gershman**, District Office Manager, Office of Mark Weprin, District 23

District 23 Overall

Population:

151,382⁶³

Number of PB

Participants:

1,273

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

Who Participated in District 23?

In District 23, PB engaged 1,273 people, including: 221 neighborhood assembly participants, 54 budget delegates, and 1,116 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:

1,273
people

221
neighborhood
assembly
participants

54
Budget
Delegates

1,116
voters



Race/Ethnicity

- The majority of participants in all phases of PB in District 23 identified as White: 61% of neighborhood assembly participants, 58% of budget delegates, and 61% of PB voters.
- People who identified as Hispanic or Latino/a were less likely to vote in PB (6%) compared to the 2009 local elections (11%).⁶⁴
- People who identified as Asian were more likely to vote in PB (22%) compared to the 2009 local elections (15%).
- Asians and Latino/as were underrepresented in the PB process compared to the overall population of the district.



Language and Country of Birth

- 29% of PB voters reported that they were born outside of the U.S. compared to 45% of the overall population of the district.
- 18% of PB voters reported that they primarily speak a language other than English at home compared to 52% of the overall population of the district.



Gender

- A larger share of women voted in PB (64%) compared to the 2009 local elections (54%).⁶⁵
- Men were more likely than women to participate in neighborhood assemblies (51%) and as budget delegates (52%) in District 23.

Those who
identified as
Asian made up
22% of PB voters

(Compared to 15% in 2009
local elections)



Income

- The income levels of neighborhood assembly participants and PB voters were consistent with the overall population of the district.
- A higher percentage of people with incomes below \$35,000 voted in PB (18%) compared to the 2009 local elections (5%).⁶⁶

Women made up a larger share of PB voters (64%) than 2009 local election voters (54%).



Education

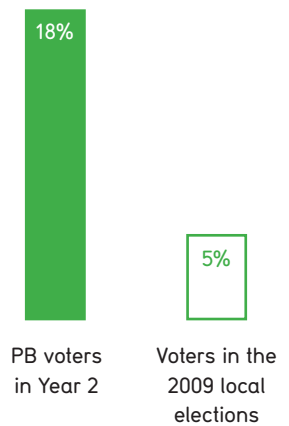
- People with a college or graduate degree made up the majority of participants in all phases of PB in District 23.



Age

- 7% of PB voters were young people (ages 15 to 24) compared to 12% of the overall population of the district.
- A higher percentage of seniors (ages 65 and over) and middle aged people (ages 45 to 64) were PB voters (65%) compared with the overall population of the district (44%).

Voters reporting household incomes under \$35,000



Asian Community in the 23rd district

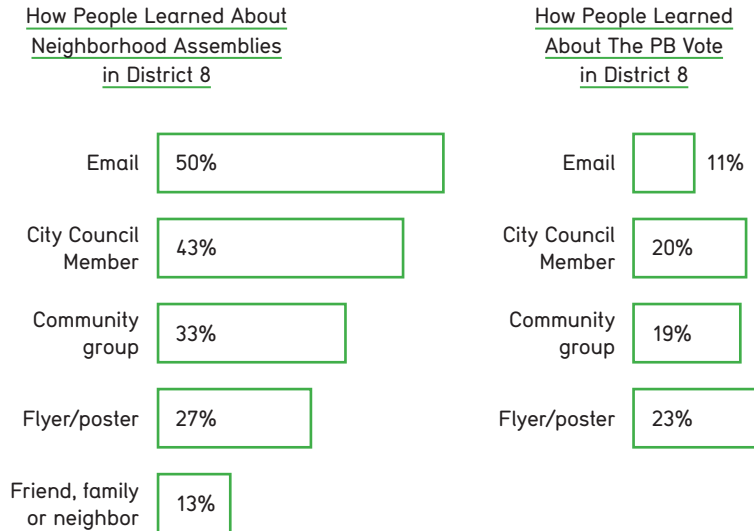
District 23 is home to the second highest proportion of Asian-Americans in New York City; 37% of the overall district population identifies as Asian, which amounts to over 50,000 residents.⁶⁷ Although over a third of the district identifies as Asian, this community has traditionally been neglected during the political process. Indeed, only 15% of voters in the 2009 local elections were Asian.⁶⁸

To ensure that the Asian community in District 23 was more fully represented in the PB process, Council Member Mark Weprin's office took many steps to reach out to this community. Flyers were printed in Chinese and Korean to reach out to residents who are less comfortable speaking English. In addition to translated materials, Korean and Chinese interpreters were available at neighborhood assemblies to allow immigrants to participate. These were important steps because over 50% of the district primarily speaks a language other than English.⁶⁹ Additionally, community organizations like the MinKwon Center helped with outreach, especially to the Korean youth, which formed their own special budget delegate committee. The Council Member's office also made sure to plan PB events at places where the Asian community already go on a regular basis. The Bayside Senior Center, with its predominantly Chinese population, was used as a location for a neighborhood assembly and a polling site.

Overall, these efforts resulted in higher levels of participation of the Asian community in PB than in general elections in District 23. While participation was not quite at the same levels as the overall district population, people who identify as Asian represented a larger share of PB participants (22%) compared to the 2009 local elections (15%).⁷⁰

How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 23?

District 23 participants mostly heard about the neighborhood assemblies from the Council Member or through an email. For the vote, flyers and posters and community groups seemed to be the most effective for turning out voters.



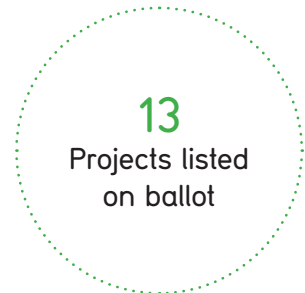
Residents of District 23 attend a neighborhood assembly.



What projects were proposed in District 23, what made it on to the ballot and what won the vote?

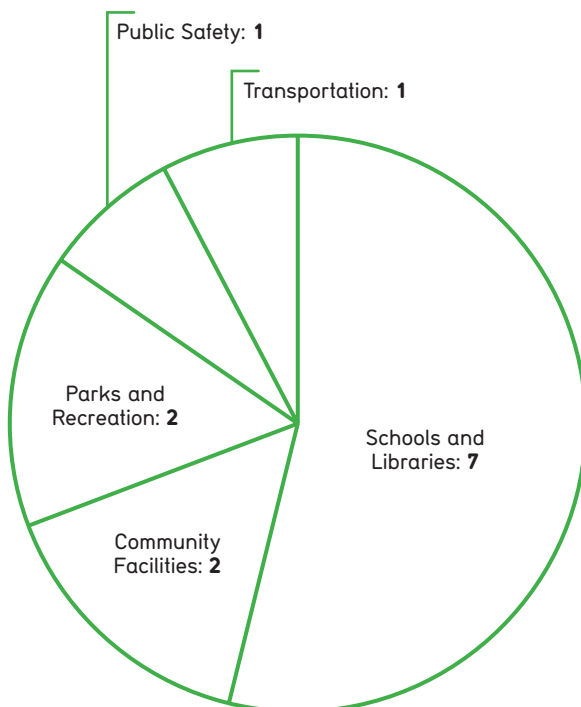
In September and October of 2012, District 23 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods. This process produced 138 project ideas, of which 23 were ultimately deemed eligible for PB. Ideas around park improvements, community center/ programs and school and library improvements were the most common types of projects proposed.

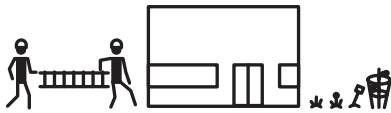
Following the neighborhood assemblies, participants volunteered to be budget delegates and formed committees to develop specific projects from the ideas proposed at the neighborhood assemblies. During this process, which included months of research, consultation with government agencies and deliberation, the 138 ideas were whittled down to 13 projects that were put on the ballot. The graph below shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 23.



Projects on District 23 Ballot

Total Number: 13
Total Cost: \$2,070,000
Average Cost: \$159,231





Winning Project

Queens County Farm Museum Roof Repairs
\$35,000
535 out of 1,116 votes

Located in Glen Oaks, Queens, sandwiched between the Grand Central, Cross Island, and Little Neck Parkways, this 47-acre farm founded in 1697 is New York City's oldest and largest remaining farm.⁷¹ Queens County Farm, a property of the New York City Department of Parks, produces vegetables, eggs, honey, wine, and wool products.⁷² Local schools take field-trips to Queens County Farm, where students are educated about life in the colonial era, as well as contemporary crop-growing, animal-raising, and food and textile production.⁷³

Unfortunately, the Queens County Farm Museum building has recently suffered from leaky windows, walls, and roof. When Participatory Budgeting came to District 23, the Queens County Farm Museum became an obvious target for funding. During the Project Expo in February, one of Council Member Mark Weprin's staff explained, "[T]his project is \$35,000 to redo their roof, which is very badly needed. They need re-shingling."⁷⁴ With this money, field-trips, weddings, community gatherings, and farming should continue unabated for years to come.

Winning Projects

Over 1,100 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects in District 23. Table 4 shows the projects that were selected.

Table 4
6 Winning Projects: District 23

| Project | # of Votes | % of Voters | Price |
|---|------------|-------------|------------------|
| Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps emergency equipment | 594 | 53% | \$40,000 |
| Queens County Farm Museum roof repair | 535 | 48% | \$35,000 |
| Martin Van Buren High School Technology Upgrade | 445 | 40% | \$129,000 |
| Portable Security Cameras | 441 | 40% | \$100,000 |
| Cunningham Park enhancement of picnic area | 424 | 38% | \$375,000 |
| Cunningham Park music stage | 422 | 38% | \$375,000 |
| Total | | | \$979,000 |

Participants at a project expo.



Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 23

In its first year participating in PB, District 23 engaged over 1,200 people and the data collected from these participants suggest that most identify as White. Although the majority of participants were White, people who identified as Hispanic or Latino/a and Black or African American participated in PB at levels consistent with the overall population of the district. And while Asians were underrepresented in PB compared to the district population overall, their participation increased as the process moved forward and they turned out for the PB vote in higher numbers than in the 2009 local election. In addition, income levels for PB participants were consistent with the overall district. Unique among all of the districts, in District 23 men represented a majority (51%) of neighborhood assembly participants, though women were 64% of PB voters. Many projects proposed in District 23 were concerned with improvements to parks, community centers and programs and improvements for schools and libraries. Although improvements to schools and libraries represented the majority of projects on the ballot, only one of the six winning projects was for a school. Rather the residents decide to use most of their \$1 million to improve parks, make repairs to community facilities and provide equipment to a local non-profit.

23rd District Demographics

| | | <u>Census</u> <u>Data</u> | <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> N=108 | <u>Budget</u> <u>Delegates</u> N=52 | <u>PB</u> <u>Voters</u> N=614 | <u>Voters in</u> <u>2009 Local</u> <u>Elections</u> | <u>Difference</u> <u>between</u> <u>PB & 2009</u> <u>Voters</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Gender</u> NA: N=95 BD: N=52 Voters: N=854 | Female | 49% | 50% | 48% | 64% | 54% | +10% |
| | Male | 51% | 51% | 52% | 36% | 46% | -10% |
| | Other | N/A | 0% | 0% | 0% | N/A | N/A |
| <u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=89 BD: N=48 Voters: N=799 | Asian | 37% | 15% | 21% | 22% | 15% | +7% |
| | Black | 12% | 10% | 15% | 8% | 12% | -4% |
| | Latino/a | 14% | 8% | 2% | 6% | 11% | -5% |
| | White | 31% | 61% | 58% | 61% | 47% | +14% |
| | Other | 6% | 8% | 6% | 4% | 1% | +3% |
| <u>Highest Level</u> <u>of Education</u> NA: N=57 BD: N=38 Voters: N=666 | Some High School or less | 11% | 2% | 0% | 1% | N/A | N/A |
| | H.S. Diploma or GED | 26% | 12% | 10% | 13% | N/A | N/A |
| | Associate/ Vocational Degree | 7% | 0% | 4% | 1% | N/A | N/A |
| | Some College | 16% | 16% | 18% | 18% | N/A | N/A |
| | Bachelor's Degree | 25% | 28% | 29% | 32% | N/A | N/A |
| | Graduate Degree | 15% | 42% | 39% | 34% | N/A | N/A |
| <u>Income</u> NA: N=74 BD: N=48 Voters: N=719 | Less than \$10,000 | 4% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 1% | +2% |
| | \$10,000-\$14,999 | 3% | 4% | 2% | 3% | 0% | +3% |
| | \$15,000-\$24,999 | 8% | 8% | 8% | 6% | 0% | +6% |
| | \$25,000-\$34,999 | 9% | 4% | 2% | 6% | 4% | +2% |
| | \$35,000-\$49,999 | 10% | 10% | 10% | 13% | 18% | -5% |
| | \$50,000-\$74,999 | 18% | 20% | 19% | 19% | 68% | -49% |
| | \$75,000-\$99,999 | 15% | 14% | 19% | 16% | 7% | +9% |
| | \$100,000-\$149,000 | 20% | 22% | 25% | 19% | 2% | +17% |
| | \$150,000 or more | 13% | 14% | 10% | 15% | 0% | +15% |
| <u>Age</u> NA: N=61 BD: N=39 Voters: N=727 | 14 years or under | 16% | 0% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | 15 to 19 years | 6% | 5% | 0% | 5% | N/A | N/A |
| | 20 to 24 years | 6% | 0% | 0% | 2% | N/A | N/A |
| | 25 to 34 years | 14% | 3% | 5% | 5% | 7% | -2% |
| | 35 to 44 years | 14% | 10% | 3% | 13% | N/A | N/A |
| | 45 to 54 years | 16% | 21% | 23% | 18% | N/A | N/A |
| | 55 to 64 years | 13% | 26% | 26% | 22% | N/A | N/A |
| | 65+ years | 15% | 34% | 44% | 36% | 37% | -1% |
| <u>Language</u> NA: N=94 BD: N=48 Voters: N=797 | English | 48% | 97% | 96% | 89% | N/A | N/A |
| | Spanish | 12% | 2% | 0% | 1% | N/A | N/A |
| | Other | 41% | 7% | 4% | 11% | N/A | N/A |