

District 45

Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

Queens

Brooklyn



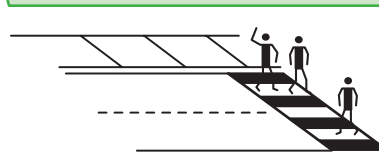
Creation of Wi-Fi enabled, computer-equipped college and career center in the library of the Tilden Education Campus



Installation of security cameras at a number of sites around the Flatbush Gardens apartment complex



Completion of field light installation at Tilden Educational Campus, to increase community usage in the surrounding area



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District 45

Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

Council Member Jumaane D. Williams's district in Brooklyn includes the neighborhoods of Flatbush, East Flatbush, Flatlands and parts of Midwood and Canarsie. The residents of the district identify largely as Black or African American (76%) with 11% identifying as White and 8% as Hispanic or Latino/a.¹⁰⁵ The large foreign-born population brings a diversity of languages, with 23% of residents speaking languages other than English or Spanish as their primary language.¹⁰⁶ 45% of District 45 residents have a college education and 44% have incomes between \$25,000-\$75,000.¹⁰⁷

From Year 1 to Year 2 of PB, District 45 saw a decrease in overall participation. The demographics of participants also changed with a slight decrease in participation among people that identify as Black or African American and an increase in participation among people who identify as Hispanic or Latino/a and White. This slight shift brought PB more in-line with the overall demographics of the district. Participation among low-income residents and youth also increased from Year 1 to Year 2. District 45 was the only district that did not have school and library improvements as one the top categories of project proposals. But despite this, the youth budget delegate committee was successful in getting education and other youth-focused projects on the ballot.

District 45 Overall

Population:

140,433¹⁰⁸

Number of PB

Participants:

1,035

Neighborhoods:

Flatbush

East Flatbush

Flatlands

Parts of Midwood
and Canarsie

Who Participated in District 45?

In District 45, PB Engaged 1,035 people, including: 120 neighborhood assembly participants, 39 Budget Delegates and 940 voters.¹⁰⁹ Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



Race/Ethnicity

- Participants who identified as Black or African American made up the biggest share of neighborhood assembly participants (70%) and PB voters (89%) in District 45 and are 76% of the overall population of the district.
- Participation among Whites decreased as the PB process progressed.



Language and Country of Birth

- 52% of PB voters reported that they were born outside of the U.S. compared to 47% of the overall population in the district.
- 8% of neighborhood assembly participants and 9% of PB voters reported that they primarily speak a language other than English at home.



Gender

- Women were more likely than men to participate in PB.



Income

- People with low to middle incomes participated in PB at higher rates than those with higher incomes.
- A higher percentage of people with incomes under \$25,000 participated in a neighborhood assembly (33%) compared to the overall population of the district (25%).

African Americans made up 70% of neighborhood assembly participants and 89% of PB voters

(Compared to 76% of the overall district population)



Age

- Young people (ages 15 to 24) were more likely to attend a neighborhood assembly (18%) than vote in PB (11%).
- A higher percentage of seniors (ages 65 and over) voted in PB (17%) compared to the overall population of the district (11%).

52% of PB voters in Year 2 reported that they were born outside of the U.S.

(Compared to 47% of the overall district population)

Brooklyn College Students in the 45th District

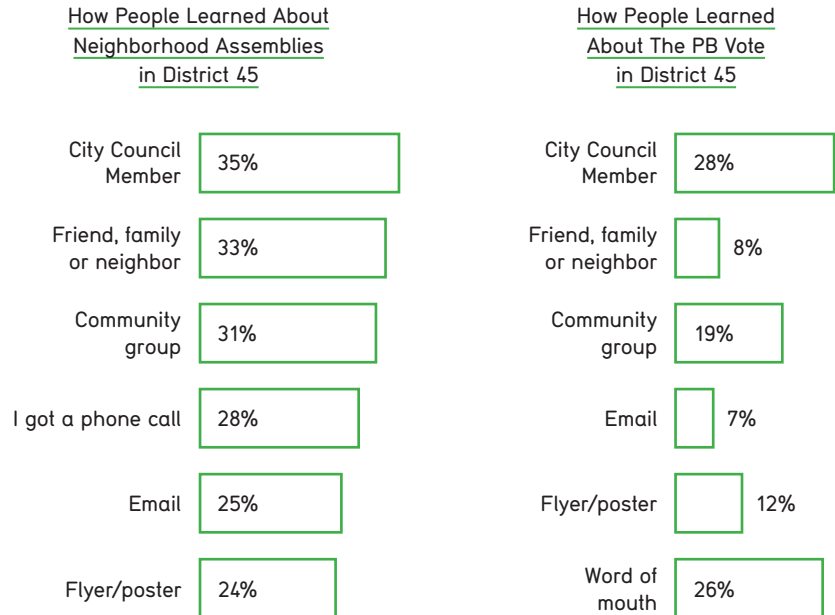
In District 45, the Council Member's office worked closely with Brooklyn College professor Michael Menser, who is the Chair of the Board of the Participatory Budgeting Project, to engage Brooklyn College students and increase PB participation. Professor Menser used his Social Philosophy class to introduce his students to PB. "This is not a consultation," he told his students, "...a town hall meeting where someone comes from the city and says, 'What do you want,...but you have no power. Participatory budgeting means you actually have the power to decide which proposals fit.'"¹⁰

This partnership was extremely successful in getting students to participate, many of whom would otherwise not have heard about PB. Professor Menser was able to encourage his students to try the process and then discuss it with them during class, thus relating it to many facets of their lives. Also, neighborhood assemblies and voting sites were held on campus making it easy for students to attend.

Students at Brooklyn College were so inspired by the PBNYC process that they pushed to have the student government implement its own participatory budgeting process in 2012, the first university to do so in North America. With \$12,000 in funding, 5% of the Student Government budget was decided by town hall meetings, volunteer budget delegates, and direct democracy. "Today we show the CUNY Board of Trustees that the students of Brooklyn College will not give in," said CLAS President Jonathan Douek. "Today, we tell them where we want our money to go and today at Brooklyn College, we create a better tomorrow."¹¹

How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 45?

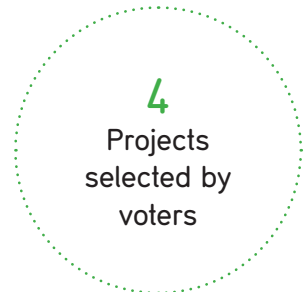
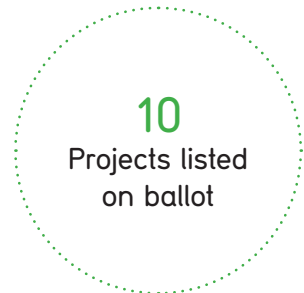
PB participants were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assemblies and the vote from their Council Member and through their social networks (i.e. friends and family, word of mouth).



What projects were proposed in District 45, what made it on to the ballot and what won the vote?

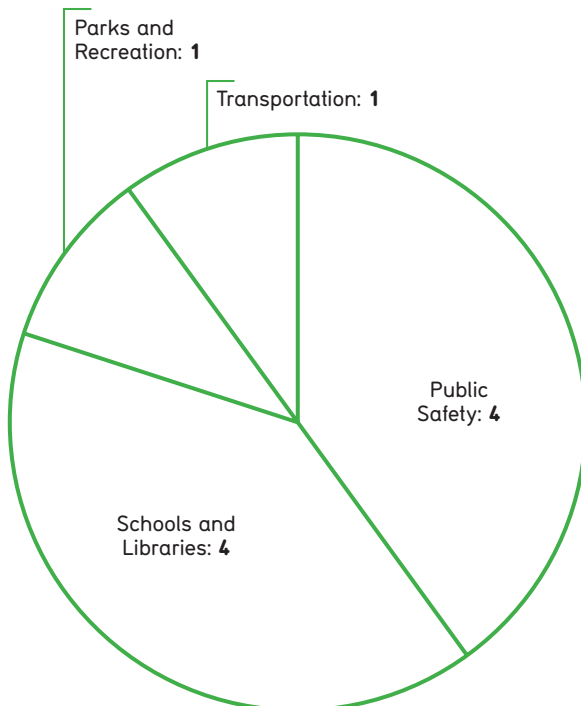
In September and October of 2012, District 45 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods. This process produced 78 project ideas, of which 49 were ultimately deemed eligible for PB. Ideas around improvements for parks, schools and libraries and transportation 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 78 ideas were whittled down to 10 projects that were put on the ballot. The graph below shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 45.



Projects on District 45 Ballot

Total Number: 10
Total Cost: \$3,705,000
Average Cost: \$370,500





Winning Project

Tilden Educational Campus Wi-Fi and Career Center
\$350,000
659 out of 950 votes

In order to bring the Tilden Educational Campus' library into the 21st century, the Education Committee proposed to create a Wi-Fi enabled, computer equipped, College and Career Center. This will benefit the community by increasing computer literacy among students, and creating college-ready students in District 45. According to Jelanie Deshong of the Education Committee, "71% of kids who graduate high-school [aren't] college ready, and I think a big part of that is because they don't have adequate technology in their schools... A lot of kids don't have computers at home, so this should be their home away from home, and this should be their space for them to really further their career, wherever it may be, in politics... in sciences, computer engineering, graphic design, wherever they really want to focus at, this is the place they can come and... say you know what, I can make it to college out of East Flatbush."¹²

Winning Projects

940 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects in District 45. Table 9 shows the projects that were selected.

Table 9
4 Winning Projects: District 45

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Price</u>
Installation of security cameras at a number of sites around the Flatbush Gardens apartment complex	697	73%	\$400,000
Creation of Wi-Fi enabled, computer-equipped college and career center in the library of the Tilden Education Campus	659	69%	\$350,000
Addition of curb extension to Linden Boulevard between East 52nd Street and East 54th Street, a high traffic area for seniors and impaired neighbors	561	59%	\$360,000
Completion of field light installation at Tilden Educational Campus, to increase community usage in the surrounding area	548	58%	\$420,000
<u>Total</u>			\$1,480,000

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 45

Year 2 of PB looked very similar to Year 1 in Council Member Jumaane Williams' District 45. Similarities included, the majority of participants identified as Black or African American, over half were born outside of the United States, over 60% were women and most were lower- or middle-income. One significant difference was that in Year 1 most people learned about PB from family or friends as opposed to the Council Member office or community group. But in Year 2, most participants heard about both the neighborhood assemblies and the vote from the Council Member office. District 45 increased participation among youth and non-English speakers by forming a youth budget delegate committee and providing translation in Haitian Creole at PB events. The ballot in District 45 featured projects related to public safety, schools and libraries, park improvements and transportation improvements. Although only 3 projects took up the allotted \$1 million, Council Member Williams decided to give almost an additional half million dollars to fund the second phase of field lights at the Tilden Educational Campus.

45th District Demographics

		<u>Census</u> <u>Data</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> N=91	<u>Difference</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> <u>Years 1 & 2</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Delegates</u> N=22	<u>PB</u> <u>Voters</u> N=222	<u>Diff. PB</u> <u>Voters</u> <u>Years</u> <u>1 & 2</u>	<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=81 BD: N=22 Voters: N=218	Female	50%	64%	+3%	68%	63%	-1%	60%	+3%
	Male	50%	36%	-3%	32%	37%	+1%	40%	-3%
	Other	N/A	0%	+0%	0%	0%	+0%	N/A	N/A
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=77 BD: N=20 Voters: N=201	Asian	3%	1%	+0%	0%	1%	+0%	1%	+0%
	Black	76%	69%	-14%	90%	89%	+2%	79%	+10%
	Latino/a	8%	13%	+9%	0%	4%	-2%	4%	+0%
	White	11%	17%	+10%	10%	4%	-3%	11%	-7%
	Other	2%	9%	+3%	0%	6%	0%	1%	+5%
<u>Highest Level</u> <u>of Education</u> NA: N=43 BD: N=16 Voters: N=138	Some High School or less	10%	12%	+5%	13%	11%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	32%	14%	+3%	19%	14%	-7%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	9%	7%	+0%	13%	4%	-7%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	20%	23%	+0%	6%	21%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	16%	28%	+3%	25%	33%	+13%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	8%	16%	-12%	25%	18%	-1%	N/A	N/A
<u>Income</u> NA: N=72 BD: N=21 Voters: N=192	Less than \$10,000	9%	11%	+0%	10%	9%	+1%	0%	+9%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	5%	15%	+11%	5%	7%	+2%	2%	+5%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	11%	7%	+2%	14%	12%	+4%	4%	+8%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	11%	4%	-8%	5%	12%	-2%	19%	-7%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	14%	15%	-1%	24%	22%	+4%	46%	-24%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	19%	26%	+5%	10%	21%	+1%	28%	-7%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	12%	11%	-1%	14%	7%	-7%	1%	+6%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	13%	6%	-8%	14%	8%	+2%	0%	+8%
	\$150,000 or more	7%	4%	-2%	5%	3%	-4%	0%	+3%
<u>Age</u> NA: N=54 BD: N=19 Voters: N=156	14 years or under	21%	0%	-2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	7%	11%	+4%	11%	6%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	6%	7%	+2%	0%	5%	+1%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	16%	15%	+4%	26%	21%	+7%	10%	+11%
	35 to 44 years	13%	13%	-4%	11%	18%	+4%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	15%	24%	+3%	16%	17%	-4%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	11%	11%	-6%	26%	15%	-6%	N/A	N/A
	65+ years	11%	19%	-2%	11%	17%	-6%	29%	-12%
<u>Language</u> NA: N=82 BD: N=22 Voters: N=215	English	70%	99%	+5%	91%	91%	-2%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	7%	2%	+2%	0%	2%	-4%	N/A	N/A
	Other	23%	7%	-5%	10%	6%	-1%	N/A	N/A