



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

Dear Honorable President and Members of the City Council,

Today, I present to you and the people of Los Angeles a budget proposal for the fiscal year that spans July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. It represents a key element in my ongoing work to partner with you to change how government operates to reduce homelessness, increase public safety and better serve the people of Los Angeles.

We have a long way to go – but because we have locked arms to make change and disrupt the status quo, over the last year, we moved thousands more homeless Angelenos inside than the year before, housed Angelenos in encampments in every Council District, reduced homicides and violent crime, and addressed 100,000 more service calls from Angelenos.

Amidst national, state and local economic uncertainty driven by broad economic trends and the coming national election, this budget continues our momentum toward change, prioritizes core city services and serves as a “reset” – so that our budgets moving forward are more honest and transparent and are squarely focused on doing a better job for Angelenos.

We must take advantage of this current opportunity to evaluate the entire budget process and make the changes necessary to ensure City departments are functioning as effectively and efficiently as possible. Immediately after this budget is finalized, I will direct my staff to conduct a comprehensive analysis of all City departments, and I look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

This budget continues to respond to the homeless emergency and funds efforts to reduce homelessness. We must continue to break new ground with new strategies and deliver more services and housing to bring more people inside from tents, cars and RVs. We must continue our new efforts to prevent Angelenos from losing their homes and ending up on the streets. Two key goals that are supported by this budget proposal are lowering the cost of housing and developing a stronger model for delivering the services necessary to make sure Angelenos move from the streets and never return.

INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY

Building on our work that has resulted in record numbers of applicants to the LAPD academy, the budget prioritizes the recruitment and retention of police officers and maintains our staffing goals for LAPD.

The budget maintains funding for our new and expanded approaches to preventing crime and interrupting the cycles of violence through gang prevention, community violence intervention and other key programs. The budget also funds the hiring of firefighters and continues the Emergency Appointment Paramedic Program in response to the majority of medically related calls for service.

DELIVERING CITY SERVICES

A world class city deserves world class services, this will not happen without investing in livable wages for City workers. In addition to first responders, there will also be a significant investment in other members of the City family. This ensures that quality critical services - from sanitation, pothole repairs to park maintenance to community beautification and traffic safety - are delivered to Angelenos in every corner of the city.

We are eliminating many vacant positions to prioritize actual service delivery. These vacant positions do not fill potholes, sweep streets or staff parks – and too many of these positions have remained open and on the books for years because of flawed budgeting that does not reflect how departments should actually operate.

To build on the changes we have made to how the city delivers services to Angelenos and improve the delivery of services, my budget invests in upgrades to the city's 311 system to better meet the needs of Angelenos to improve how departments respond to service calls and to keep residents better informed about progress on their requests.

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE

The budget supports key initiatives to combat climate change, including transportation electrification, water recycling and treatment, and organics recycling as well as other efforts to maintain the goal of Los Angeles becoming a 100% clean energy city by 2035.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY

The budget adds new support for Family Source Centers – one-stop service portals for low-income residents to get help with increasing family income and financial security, improving housing stability, and supporting successful academic outcomes. The budget also continues to help small businesses start, grow and thrive and supports the continuation of the permanent Al Fresco outdoor dining program.

FISCAL PRUDENCE

The City Charter requires a 2.75% emergency reserve and the City Financial Policy dictates a 2.25% contingency reserve, combining for a 5% cumulative reserve. Despite this difficult forecast, and after closing deficits in the 23-24 fiscal year brought on by less-than-expected revenues and unexpected costs, this budget maintains a 7.91% cumulative reserve in the Reserve Fund, the Budget Stabilization Fund and the Reserve for Mid-Year Adjustments.

I look forward to our continuing work together to make change and build a new Los Angeles of which every Angeleno can be proud.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Bass" clearly legible.

KAREN BASS
Mayor