

CITY OF OAKLAND

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) held **Wednesday, May 27th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

The Budget Advisory Commission was held in Council Chambers.

Commission Members:

Mandela Bliss, Larisa Casillas, Mike Forbes, Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Jane Yang, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Karen Royce, Vanessa Zamora, Rana Bader Matly

City's Representative(s):

Tiffany Kirk Patrick, Walter Silva, and Asti Jenkins – *Finance Department*

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome and Administrative Items / Roll Call (5 minutes)

- The meeting was called to order.
- Commissioners present: Jane Yang, Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Karen Royce, Larisa Casillas, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Mandela Bliss, Vanessa Zamora, Rana Bader Matly, Mike Forbes.
- Absent: None.
- Quorum was established with all 10 commissioners present.

2. Council Finance & Management Committee (FMC) Updates (10 minutes)

- Since the last commission meeting, the FMC held two meetings.
- Reviewed the audit on business license tax collection.
- Discussed the Q3 Revenue and Expenditure Report:
 - City is currently net positive.
 - One-time bonuses contributed to over-budget figures.
 - \$53 million in carryforward budget from the prior fiscal year.

3. FY 2026–27 Midcycle Budget Ad Hoc Report (60 minutes)

Public Comment:

- Support for reallocating program data by age groups, especially to improve services for seniors.
- Emphasis on strong oversight of grants and services.
- Recommendation to prioritize nonprofit organizations in city contracting.

Commissioner Gould:

- Presentation to City Council scheduled for June 1.
- Shared data regarding crime levels and below-average sales revenue.
- Stated the Midcycle Budget complies with Auditor and Library measures but not with several others.
- Provided updates on:
 - Sworn staffing allocated through Measure NN.
 - Park maintenance funding under Measure Q.
 - Recommendations to review vacant positions, service shortfalls, and new grants/contracts.
 - Clarifications regarding Measure NN use for Fire/Life Support equipment; recommended restructuring funds to support staffing.
 - Reviewed revenue projections.
 - Discussed transferring positions from the General Purpose Fund to Restricted Funds.

Commissioner Royce:

- Recommended developing a dashboard to track Local Measure outcomes for the public.

Commissioner Gould:

- Noted that centralized purchasing has been included in the budget.

Commissioner Petouhoff:

- Raised long-term budget concerns.
- Noted upcoming MOU negotiations.
- Highlighted the need for community surveys and public engagement.
- Discussed the connection between public safety and economic development.
- Suggested expanding the Public Safety Ambassador Program.
- Recommends a community survey targeting businesses.

Commissioner Royce:

- Supported collecting data by age group, including Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and seniors.

Commissioner Gould:

- Noted that internal ambulance services are included in the budget.
- Supported performance metrics focused on meaningful outcomes rather than volume.

Commissioner Yang:

- Clarified that the BAC report does not express support for Measure E but provides information on how funds would be used.

Commissioner Forbes:

- Raised concerns about root causes in the hiring process and ongoing HR vacancies.

Commissioner Casillas:

- Attended a budget workshop.
- Requested inclusion of page numbers and will send additional edits.

Commissioner Gould:

- Added a “Nutritional Facts” section to the presentation to explain how the BAC reviews and scores the budget.

Commissioner Yang:

- Suggested incorporating analysis on the relationship between economic development, public safety, and Local Measures.

Commissioner Zamora:

- Reported community frustration regarding Measure E.
- Stressed the need for transparency in spending.
- Recommended making the document more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

Motions and Votes:

- **Motion 1:** Allow the Mid-cycle Ad Hoc to incorporate all Budget Advisory Commission changes into the report.

- Second: Ycoy-Walton
- Vote: Bliss–Yes, Casillas–Yes, Forbes–Yes, Gould–Yes, Petouhoff–Abstain, Royce–Yes, Yang–Yes, Ycoy-Walton–Yes, Zamora–Yes, Bader Matly–Yes
- Outcome: Passed with 9 Yes votes, 1 Abstention.

- **Motion 2:** Authorize the Commission to expand the appendices, commit to further discussion by August, and prioritize presenting to Council.

- Second: Petouhoff
- Vote: All ten commissioners voted Yes
- Outcome: Passed unanimously.

4. FY 2027–29 Resident Survey Planning Discussion (15 minutes)

- Commissioner Casillas reported that the survey process has begun.
- Shared sample questions from prior budget cycles.
- Recommended including questions on Local Measures and economic trends.
- Commissioner Ycoy-Walton recommended adding demographic questions.

5. Staff Updates and Commissioner Protocol (10 minutes)

- City Staff (Tiffany) announced the budget meeting on Monday, June 1, 2026, and noted that a

Community Forum meeting link will be sent to commissioners.

- Commissioner Yang distributed required City training materials for commissioners.

6. Standard Language and Labels for Presentations and Draft Documents (5 minutes)

- Materials were attached to the agenda.

7. Charter Reform Implications on BAC Appointments (5 minutes)

- Commissioner Gould noted Council will discuss this topic at the June 2 meeting.

8. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (5 minutes)

- Approval delayed to the next meeting.

9. Open Forum (20 minutes)

- Commissioner Yang announced she will be stepping down next month.
- Councilmember Unger plans to nominate a new commissioner:
 - Danforth Dougherty, who has a background in finance and is eager to join.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.