



City of
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News from: Office of Mayor Libby Schaaf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2015

Mayor Schaaf releases \$2.4 billion Proposed Budget for FY 2015-17

Balanced budget builds a solid foundation for a vibrant, equitable Oakland that is growing responsibly

Oakland, CA — On April 30, 2015, Mayor Libby Schaaf released a \$2.4 billion two-year budget proposal for the City of Oakland for fiscal years 2015-2017.

“Our goal is that this two-year balanced budget will build a solid financial foundation for a vibrant, equitable Oakland that is growing responsibly,” said Mayor Schaaf. “In the short-term, this budget proposal closes an estimated \$18 million annual funding gap without making any cuts to services or staffing levels. It also starts to enhance the delivery of services that Oaklanders want and deserve.”

Taking a longer term view, the proposal begins the hard work of addressing the City’s unfunded liabilities and starts to restore compensation to City of Oakland workers who made great sacrifices during the recession. It also seeks to enhance service delivery and invest in the City’s workforce by giving Oakland employees the tools and training to do their jobs in a way that reflects their true professionalism.

The budget proposal keeps a focus on investments that will help responsibly grow the City’s economy and permanent revenue base so Oakland will be able to meet its long-term financial obligations and provide all of the vitally needed services in the future so Oakland can become a healthier, safer and more prosperous community.

“This balanced approach is the discipline we need,” said Mayor Schaaf. “This is how we will keep our eyes on the prize so we can afford to do more of the things we so urgently want to do in the future.”

Mayor Schaaf will formally present her proposed budget to City Council on **Tuesday, May 5** at 5 pm at Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza. Tune in live on KTOP TV-10 or watch the livestream at www.oaklandnet.com.

Priorities and Goals

While Oakland’s economy is clearly recovering, City costs continue to increase faster than revenues and so the City’s most recent Five-Year Forecast released in March showed an \$18 million annual funding gap for the next two years. The first priority in this budget was to adjust costs and revenues to balance the budget and close that gap.

The second priority was to satisfy the obligation to implement the City Council’s 2012 action requiring a \$20 million contribution towards reducing unfunded liabilities, as well as beginning to restore compensation to workers who supported City efforts to minimize layoffs through the recession. It also supports the Mayor’s commitment to get sworn police staffing to 800 officers by 2018.

The third priority was to invest any remaining funds in ways that will responsibly grow the economy, so that soon the City will have a revenue base capable of supporting all the service needs of Oakland.

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Mayor Schaaf outlined the following priorities for responsibly growing the economy:

1. **Improve public safety using a holistic approach**, including more police officers, better community policing, violence prevention and intervention programs, as well as addressing the root causes of crime, starting with better jobs and education.
2. **Improve the City's physical infrastructure, starting with roads**, so they look and work better, cost less to maintain and create more vibrant, attractive and healthy neighborhoods--making Oakland a great place to come live, play and bring a business.
3. **Create more housing and jobs, but do so in an equitable way** that keeps Oakland affordable for residents at every income level and provides employment opportunities for Oaklanders with a variety of skills and education.
4. **Be more responsive** to requests for City services so problems in *every* neighborhood are cleaned and fixed immediately and police and firefighters are there when we need them. This will show that government is trustworthy and transparent and make the city look attractive so people feel good about living and working in Oakland.

Budget Highlights

Prior to developing the Proposed Budget, City staff collaborated with the Budget Advisory Committee to conduct a professional, scientific poll measuring a representative sample of more than 700 Oaklanders' budget priorities. The poll found crime reduction and safety was overwhelmingly the highest priority in Oakland, and that most Oaklanders would rather increase City revenues by raising taxes and fees than cut services.

The FY 2015-17 Proposed Budget contains two-year appropriations of approximately \$2.4 billion--roughly \$1.2 billion in each fiscal year from all funding sources. Unlike past years, the City is not recommending using one-time sources of revenue to meet ongoing operational costs. The City was able to close the projected \$18 million funding gap, meet our obligations and make some new strategic investments by finding both savings and revenue enhancements.

Strategic Investments

Mayor Schaaf's budget proposes to make strategic investments in expanded services:

- **Increase OPD's authorized sworn staffing** from 722 to 762, keeping Oakland on track to meet the Mayor's goal of 800 officers by 2018.
- Creates new positions to **ensure police accountability reforms will be successful and sustained**.
- Expands apartment inspection program to **ensure our most vulnerable tenants are living in safe conditions**.
- **Expands Ceasefire Violence Prevention Strategy**, increasing case managers from 4 to 10.
- Adds staff to Housing Assistance Center and Rent Adjustment Program to **keep renters protected**.
- Adds resources to help **enforce Oakland's new minimum wage** and sick leave laws.
- **Adds crime fighting tools** to improve trend analysis and response.

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- **Invests in affordable housing development funds.**
- Adds staff to **respond to influx of building proposals and projects.**
- Creates new **full-service Department of Transportation** to expand ability to deliver repaving projects and leverage new and existing transportation funds.
- **Preserves critical services** such as libraries, Head Start, youth and senior services and recreation programs at or above current service levels.

The proposed budget also funds a number of priorities identified by City Council members, all of whom asked for increased police staffing and most who asked for increased compliance inspectors to enforce against blight, abandoned buildings, and illegal vending.

Community Engagement

In keeping with her commitment to opening the budget process, Mayor Schaaf will join members of the community tonight from 5 to 7 pm for a casual, family-friendly discussion of her two-year budget proposal at a “Budget and Brew” budget release party at Linden Street Brewery, 95 Linden Street, as part of her “Straight Talk Budget” outreach series.

Engagement will continue with Mayor Schaaf and the City Council at community budget forums. Dates are listed at www.oaklandnet.com. Residents are also invited to take the [Mayor’s budget survey online](#).

For additional information on the City Budget visit: www.oaklandnet.com or follow the hashtag #OAKBUDGET on Twitter. Join the online community conversation at www.SpeakUpOakland.com or by visiting www.openbudgetoakland.org, a site built and hosted by local non-profit OpenOakland, to view data and interactive infographics. Comments or questions can be emailed to: BudgetSuggestions@oaklandnet.com or call the budget hotline at (510) 238-4995.

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