



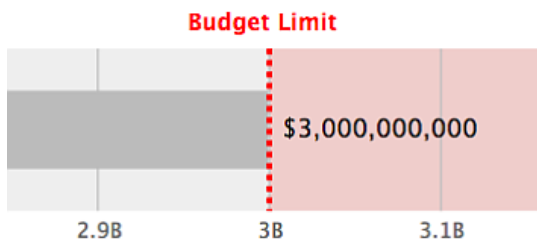
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San Diegans: What Would You Change In Your City's Budget?

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

By [Claire Trageser](#)

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer will release his nearly \$3 billion budget proposal next week to outline how the city will spend its money in the next fiscal year.



Last year, improving economic conditions gave [Faulconer an extra \\$35 million in revenue](#) to spend on sidewalks and streetlights, increase library hours and [and hire an open data officer](#).

Despite that increased spending, the city didn't exceed its financial limits. Instead, a report in February said [the city took in more money than it spent](#) and would post a \$5 million surplus in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

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spending and no one had suggestions for where the city should cut back.

In advance of Faulconer's budget proposal, KPBS asked people from across the city where they want to see the city spend more and less money. Maybe not surprisingly, everyone asked had ideas for where the city should increase

Louis Lopez, North Park



"I'd like more streetlights. There's not a lot, especially on the street where I live. My girlfriend's walking at night, walking the dog, and it would just make me feel better if there were a few more streetlights on our street and the surrounding area."

— *Louis Lopez*

Stephen Lee, La Jolla



"I think one of the best things about San Diego is obviously outdoor life and so I would love to see San Diego spend more money on public spaces, parks.

"I feel like there are a lot of areas of the city that need to be cleaned up, like the trash picked up more regularly, especially the public trash cans, a lot of times you see trash cans overflowing and I think that would beautify the whole city.

"And more resources in public spaces, I think the outdoors is one of the biggest benefits of living in San Diego."

— Stephen Lee

Monique Lopez, South Park



"What I'd like to see more in this upcoming budget is biking and walking infrastructure projects. Specifically in communities such as City Heights, where I'm at right now. Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, Barrio Logan, and all these great communities that are overburdened from air pollution, and are at highest risk of being hit by a car.

"If you live in one of these communities, you're 10 times more likely to be hit by a car, just walking around. So we need to see infrastructure such as biking and walking in these communities first."

— Monique Lopez

Andrew Bruner, Hillcrest



"Our beaches and keeping the Chargers in San Diego. Build the stadium, keep them here. We'll never share a stadium with the LA Raiders or the Oakland Raiders.

"The Chargers are supposed to be in San Diego, and that's all I've got to say about that."

— Andrew Bruner

Fekadu Dabi, City Heights



"I wish the city spent more money on the improvement of the parks, schools and health care.

"Also, I need the city to spend more money on the improvement of roads and also the security of parks."

— Fekadu Dabi

After Faulconer's budget proposal is released, the [Independent Budget Analyst](#) will review it and then the City Council will hold hearings on each department's budget. The City Council will also hold public hearings to get San Diegans' input on the city's spending plan.

Faulconer will then issue a revised budget, which will go to the City Council for a vote. A final budget must be adopted by mid-June so it can go into effect on July 1.

[CLAIRE TRAGESER](#), Multimedia Enterprise Reporter | [Contact claire-trageser](#) | [Follow @clairetrageser on Twitter](#)

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Peter Bryan · 15 days ago

The City needs to start charging for trash collection and beach parking like every other City in California does. Also, increase water/utility rates, and cable TV /telecom franchise fees, with the increased revenue directed to the City's General Fund to compensate the City all of the security, patrol, right of way, operational, street maintenance and other support services that are currently being provided to consumers for free.

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Mike · 16 days ago

Here are a few things the city should spend LESS money on:

Working w/ the Chargers and stadium "plans". They're not interested in a fair plan no matter what. They've already decided to take the hand-out plan from Carson. They're only playing along w/ SD to protect next season's ticket sales.

Lawyers. Both Goldsmith and Dumanis have had well documented blunders. It's clear to news readers their leadership is failing. Dumanis' consistent lying about Azano and her choice to charge people for murder for just being associated with the wrong crowd were two recent examples that come to mind. Goldsmith prosecutes people for sidewalk chalk drawings and defends corrupt cops. Sure, he can say defending the city is his job, but not when the corruption was so clear (he chose not to defend Filner). Both of these legal organizations are failing San Diego.

Community plans. Almost all of them are outdated despite spending millions trying. As the Barrio Logan case shows, if the community decides on a plan that some rich people don't like, they'll just mount a petition drive to overturn it anyway. These aren't real "community" plans. The city can ditch the current failing process, form a central dept staffed with urban planning professionals, and write a whole-city plan...with community input of course, but not waste money writing each neighborhood's own plan.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Michael Russell · 17 days ago

How about we cut all City compensation packages to \$200,000/year, and index all others to the Average Household Income of the people we serve. That should save enough money to reopen the pools and libraries.

I also want to offer free trash and garbage service to the entire City at no cost to either single-family homes or multi-family housing, and minimal cost to small-businesses. Your trash is worth money, and I should be paying you for the right to collect it.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mike Murphy · 17 days ago

less money for the endless bogus studies and more of that money spent on actually getting things done.

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Peking_Duck_sd · 17 days ago

The city needs to fund the arts better. I know many will say this is not important, but it is. Arts and culture bolsters tourism and they enrich people's lives. San Diego is continually at the low end of such spending when compared to other cities.

There is not enough money for everything. Do we want a city that invests in the arts or one that invests in a greedy mediocre football team?

Well, we see what choice Faulconer has shamefully made.

What I want to know, will the money being spent pandering to the Chargers be itemized in this budget??

And what about the Convention Center problem? That seems to have been put on the back-burner in light of kissing the charger's booties. Comic Con's contract is up after 2016 - is Faulconer talking to Comic Con officials? Can he break himself away from his Charger's obsession to perhaps work on the convention center expansion and secure more years with Comic-Con? Because mayor Garcetti is courting Comic-Con while Faulconer wastes his time on the chargers.

see more

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PGeographer · 17 days ago

I agree that the City should re-build the stadium in Mission Valley, along with a River Walk and area (similar to the Gaslamp district), as well as expanding the Convention Center. I also agree that the park system should continue to be enhanced, including the River Walk, and making many of the neighborhoods more bike and pedestrian friendly. I'd also like to see schools allowed to do more with the outdoor facilities in San Diego, so funding school busses would be on my list. Finally, I think we'd better be planning to have our beaches reinforced as sea level rises, and be ready to adapt to the changes coming with a very different future.

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thompson_richard · 17 days ago

The city needs to spend more money on the improvement of El Cajon Blvd. and the downtown Broadway corridor between Front Street and Park Blvd.

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thompson_richard — The 1915ff Expo wasn't federal -- S.F had that distinction, although Congressman ...

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