

# **SAN FRANCISCO CITY BUDGET BONANZA:**

San Francisco Youth Commission Student Advisory  
Council

Mid Year Retreat: January 11, 2014

# PART 1: THE BIG PICTURE





# City & County of San Francisco





The Constitution of the State of California requires all cities to adopt a balanced budget...



City Sources/Revenues  
=  
Uses/Costs

The budget reflects the City's





# San Francisco's Budget

The City's budget in the current 2013-2014  
fiscal year is  
\$7,908,801, 656 or \$7.9 billion!





# The City's Fund Structure

1. Governmental Funds – account for most of the City's basic services

2. Proprietary Funds – account for services which the City charges customers and other departments

3. Fiduciary Funds – account for resources outside the City such as retirement and health benefits, investment funds, etc...

\*\*The City is also forced to both budget and set aside money for youth services. More on this later!

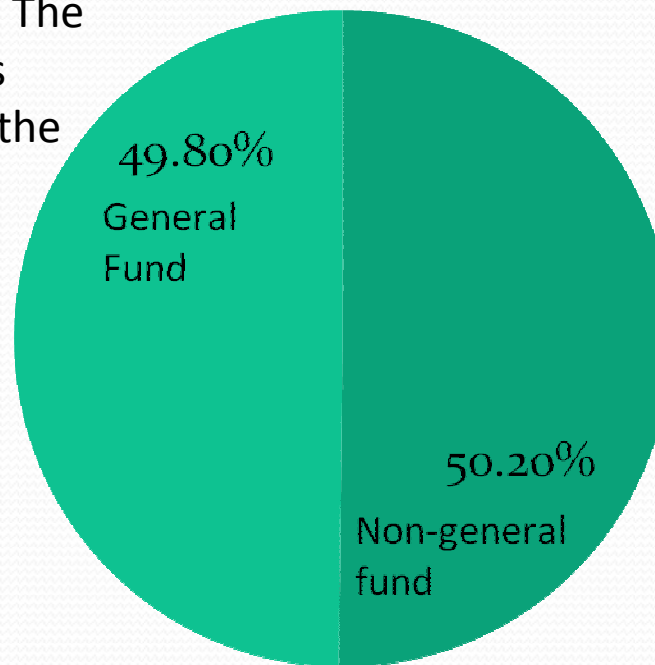


# What goes in the budget?

## General Fund:

The City's main source of discretionary spending. The General Fund comprises 49.8% or \$3.9 billion of the total budget.

2013-2014



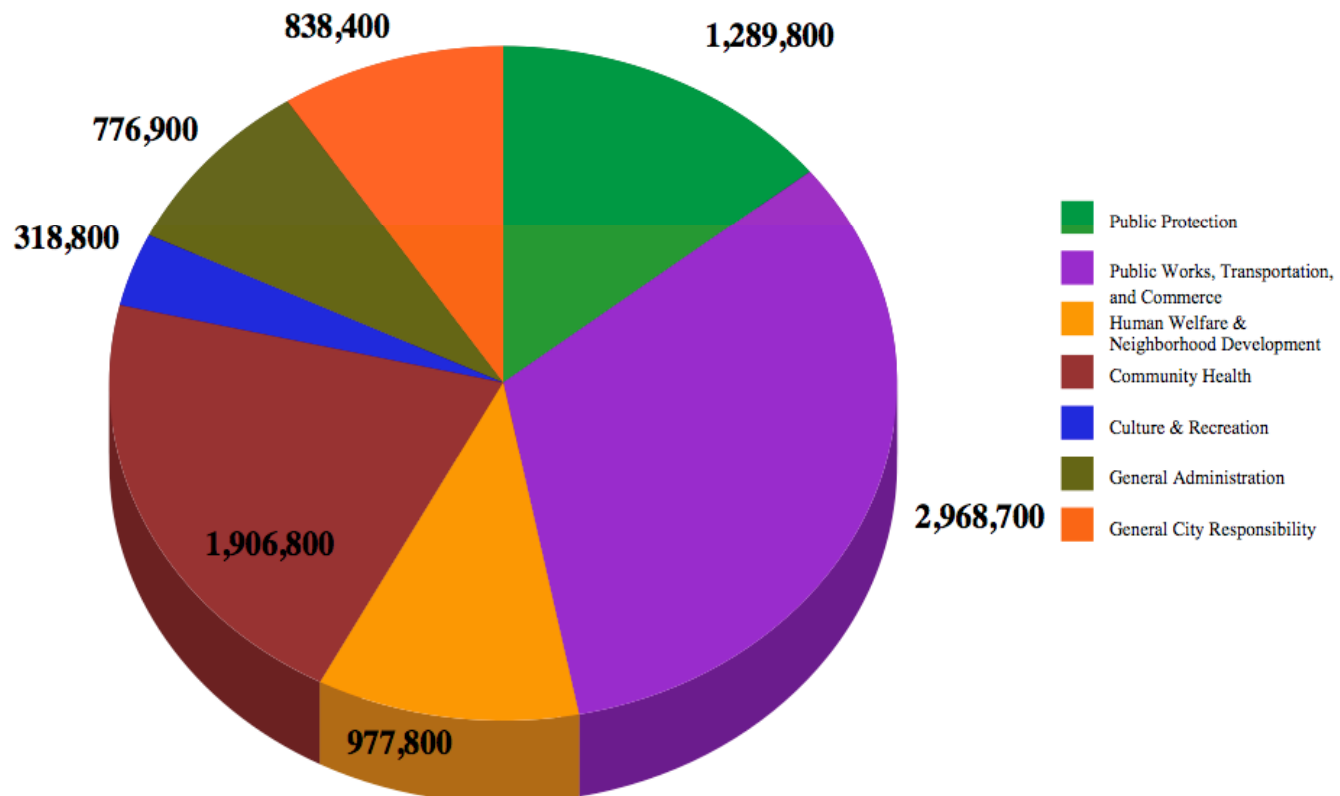
## Non-General Fund – City's Enterprise departments

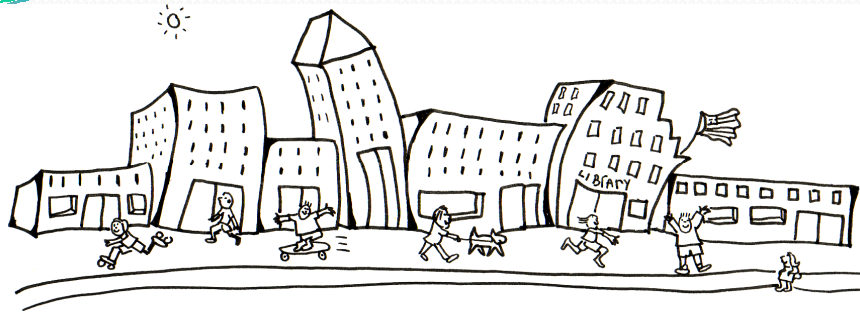
What people are paying! Muni! Water! Power! This fund makes up 50.2% of the budget or \$4 billion of the total budget.



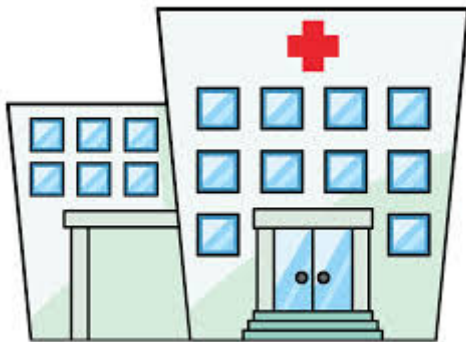
# How does San Francisco spend its \$7.9 billion budget?

San Francisco's Budget





**The General Fund is important because, along with the Children's Fund, it's what also funds the City's youth services....**





# Projected deficit

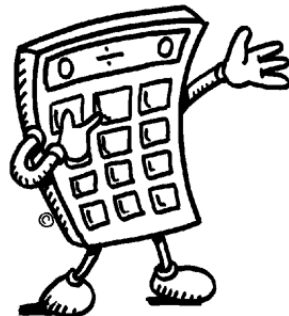
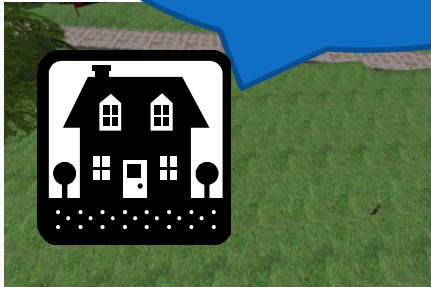
<b>Budget Instructions General Fund Deficit</b>	<b>FY 2013-14 (\$ millions)</b>	<b>FY 2014-15 (\$ millions)</b>
<b>Sources</b>	15.3	80.8
<b>Uses</b>	(144.4)	(344.0)
<b>Projected General Fund Deficit</b>	(129.1)	(263.2)

- What is a deficit?
- These are due to growth in City costs – wage, benefits; new capital projects (the new SF General Hospital), and implementation of Housing Trust Fund set aside.

# The Children's Fund

- a dedicated revenue source for funding services for children and youth. The money for the Children's Fund comes from a portion of the City property tax (\$.03 of every \$100 of assessed property taxes)

Tax me for the  
Children's  
Fund!



If I owe \$100,000 in property taxes

Ex:

$$\begin{array}{r} \$100,000 \\ /\$100 = \\ 1,000 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1,000 \times \\ .03 = \\ \$30 \end{array}$$

I am contributing \$30 to the Children's Fund!



# Children's Fund Updates

# **PART II: THE PLAYERS & THE TIMELINE**





# Who Decides the Budget?

- ...our old friends from *Hard City Knowledge*, that's who!

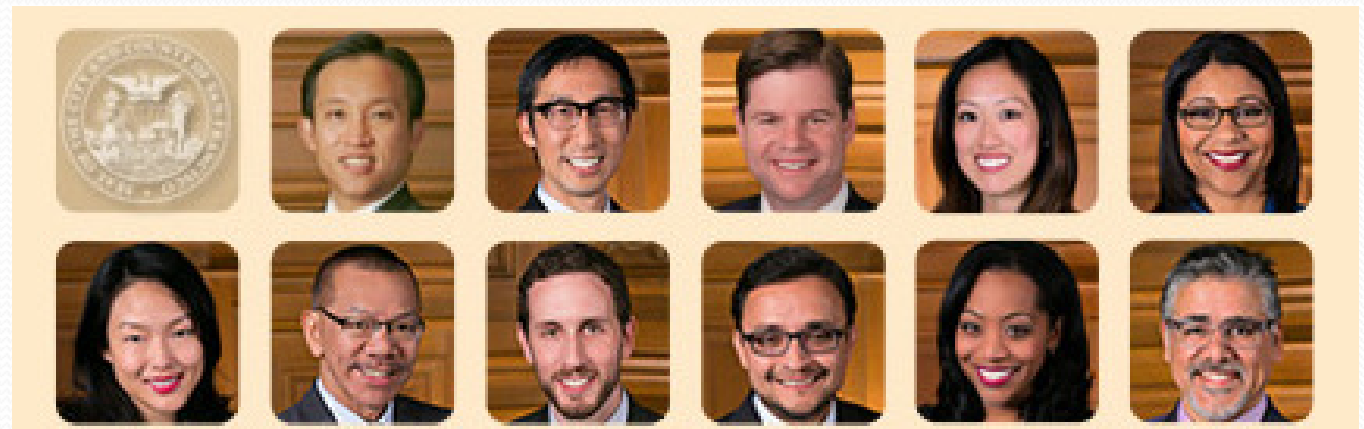
## CITY DEPARTMENTS



## THE MAYOR

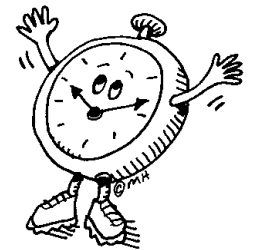


## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



# Budget Process

Each budget begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30th of the next year – this is called the “Fiscal Year”. Each year, the “*budget season*” begins in about January and lasts until the final budget is approved in July.







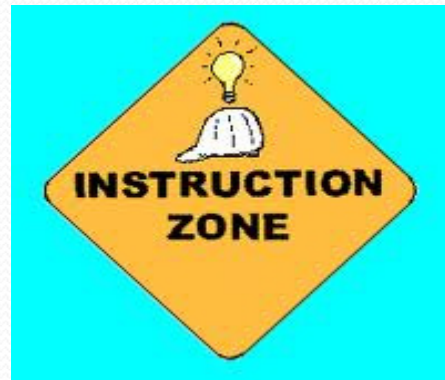
# Budget Process

1. Budget preparation
2. Approval
3. Implementation

# Before the “Budget Season”

## SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- Preliminary revenue projections for the upcoming budget years
- Budget prep and planning can begin
- In December, the Mayor’s Office and the Controller’s Office issue policy and technical budget instructions to all departments





# The Budget Season Timeline

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- Depts prepare their budgets, hold hearings, and get approval from their commissions
- Community forums are held for the public to determine and express budget needs and priorities.
- Advocates meet with department staff to talk priorities
- By February 21<sup>st</sup>, departments submit proposed budgets to the Controller's office



# The Budget Season Timeline



## MARCH & APRIL



- Advocates meet with BOS (the Supervisors don't have the Mayor's budget yet, but they are preparing their own list of projects to fund.)
- The Controller (the Chief Accounting officer) submits departmental proposed budgets to the MO (Mayor's office)
- The MO analyzes each budget proposal and hold a series of town hall meetings citywide to hear from the public





# The Budget Season Timeline



## May & June

- Citywide and neighborhood advocates and interest groups work to meet with the key players to urge support of their budget priorities
- The Mayor presents his balanced 2 year budget proposal for departments by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
- The BOS Budget and Finance committee conducts public hearings on the budget in June and makes changes to the budget before it goes to the full BOS.
- Members of the public, city and neighborhood advocates speak during public comment at these hearings urging support on specific budget priorities



# The Budget Season Timeline

## July-August

- The Board of Supervisors makes its changes to the Mayor's proposed Budget and adopts the final Budget
- The budget is then returned to the Mayor for his approval
- When approved, the Mayor signs the budget!





**PART III:  
HOW YOU(TH)  
CAN IMPACT THE  
BUDGET PROCESS**



## Allow Youth to Be Heard!

- Hold meetings, forums, hearings;
- Speak up and make recommendations;
- Use your access to influence decision makers and set up meetings (bring YOUTH with you!);
- Stay engaged and participate in citywide advocacy efforts;







# Thank You! & Sources

- City & County of San Francisco, Office of the Mayor  
[www.sfmayor.org](http://www.sfmayor.org) | Budget Info: <http://sfmayor.org/index.aspx?page=880>
- Mayor's 13-14 & 14-15 Proposed Budget Book:  
<http://sfmayor.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=273>
- Office of the Controller: [www.sfcontroller.org](http://www.sfcontroller.org)
- A Guide to San Francisco's Budget Process:  
<http://www.sfcontroller.org/index.aspx?page=104>
- SF OpenBook, an interactive online look at SF's budget:  
<http://openbook.sfgov.org/>