

A Shared Values Guide to Budgetary Decision-Making

Proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Values
of the San Leandro Community Budget Task Force
January 2021

Our purpose...

Our city's budget should reflect San Leandro's values. Therefore, the Community Budget Task Force's recommendations should be guided by our community's shared values and our aspirational vision for San Leandro.

This document aims to define our intentions and present guiding questions that will facilitate discussions and the decision-making process in budgetary recommendations, informed by our shared values and vision. In our deliberations, we will be transparent and consider all available input on community priorities. Our intention is to represent the will of the greater community in our endeavor to improve city programming and the fiscal stability of San Leandro.

We hope that these shared values and guiding questions can help guide City Council's decision-making in the budgetary process as well.

Our city budget should value...

Equity...

...Allocating resources to produce an inclusive, fair, and democratic San Leandro.

Is it equitable?

- Is the impact of the recommendation fair and just?
- Does the recommendation address (or free up funds to address) service gaps?
- Does the recommendation correct or exacerbate a historic inequity?
- Does the recommendation center the perspectives of historically disenfranchised communities?

Innovation...

...Encouraging growth and proactive policy that asserts San Leandro as a visionary city.

Is it innovative?

- Does the recommendation support smart growth and innovative business development?
 - “Smart growth” example: Does the budget allocate resources to attract housing developers that accommodate San Leandro growth needs for both market rate and affordable housing?
 - “Innovative business development” example: Does the budget adequately allocate resources to attract new climate friendly businesses that provide good paying jobs and opportunities for San Leandro residents?
- Does the recommendation allow for different departments to adopt best-practices in their field?
- Does the recommendation address ongoing problems in new ways?

Safety...

...Working to ensure that all people are treated compassionately, in a way that affirms human dignity and rights; that their basic needs are proactively met; that all people in San Leandro are secure and free from harm.

Is it safe?

- Does the recommendation address a pressing safety need that has been previously neglected?
- Does the recommendation affirm human dignity and the rights of all San Leandro residents?
- Does the recommendation address the root causes of public safety issues?

Health...

...Improving quality of life for all San Leandrans, allowing residents to thrive and access resources that promote security, mental and physical wellbeing, and flourishing community relationships.

Is it healthy?

- Does the recommendation avoid harm, reduce suffering, and promote happiness?
- Is the recommendation evidence-based?
- Does the recommendation proactively address service gaps related to mental health, domestic violence, hunger, poverty, and homelessness?

Sustainability...

...Acting with long-term vision to support generative solutions to complex issues and preserving San Leandro's resources for future generations.

Is it sustainable?

- Does the recommendation position our city for long-term success and serve as a model for future innovation?
- Does the recommendation protect, preserve, and build our city's resources (including environment, revenues, population, property) for future generations?

Functionality...

...Providing useful, necessary services and resources to the people of San Leandro in an efficient, practical manner.

Is it functional?

- Is the recommendation meaningful and consistent with ALL the above listed values?
- Is the recommendation within the mission and scope of work of the task force?

- Is the recommendation manageable?
 - Can it be implemented?
 - Do we have access to the necessary financial and staff resources?
 - Does it need to be maintained? If so, is that realistic?
 - How will it impact the residents, business community, city staff, and city leadership?
- Could its impact be achieved more efficiently?
- What will the consequences of the recommendation be? Is it worth any sacrifice?

Transparency...

...ensuring open and publicly-accessible information about all government agencies and representatives.

Is it transparent?

- Has the recommendation come from a publicly-accessible decision-making process?
- Has the task force considered multiple perspectives and all available community input when making the recommendation?
- Does the recommendation increase transparency overall?

Accountability...

...holding all government agencies and representatives to legal and ethical standards of behavior and to their duty to serve the public.

Does the recommendation increase accountability?

- Does the recommendation encourage public officials and departments to follow through with their legal and ethical obligations?