



# Overview of the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst

Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst

# Agenda



## + Background

- Why our office was created
- Forms of City government

## + Why our role is important

## + Our mission and independence

## + About us

## + What we do

# Why was our office created?



Financial and other problems within the City led voters to approve Prop F in 2004:

- ✚ Beginning in January 2006, the City switched from City Manager form of government to Strong Mayor - Strong Council for a five-year trial period.
- ✚ The City Council was also given authority to create our Office.

Voters passed Proposition C in June 2008 which made both the form of government and our office permanent.

# Difference in Forms of City Government



**City Manager** - The City Manager implements City policies and runs day to day operations and the Mayor sits on Council with other Council members, setting policy direction.

**Strong Mayor-Strong Council** - The Mayor is now the Chief Executive of the City, similar to the President or the Governor.

Council is the legislative body providing checks and balances to the Mayor's authority.

# Why our office's role is important...



It is important to have checks and balances between the Executive Branch (Mayor) and the Legislative Branch (City Council).



✚ To help ensure the City Council is coequal to the Mayor, Council needs its own executive-level position to:

- serve as independent advisor on proposals from the Mayor, and
- raise issues and propose oversight processes.

# Our Mission...



To provide clear, objective and unbiased analysis and advice to the City Council and the public on important financial and policy issues.

➤ In order for us to provide clear, objective, and unbiased analysis and advice, we have to be independent.

# What makes us independent..



- ✦ Independent from Mayor by definition of position.
- ✦ Independent from Council as a result of establishing ground rules and protocols.
- ✦ Function independently of Council on a day-to-day basis.
- ✦ City Council and its Committees may direct which topics to address, but they do not tell the IBA what to recommend or what position to take.

# What makes us independent..



- ✦ We rely on objective research and analysis to support our conclusions and recommendations.
- ✦ We do not discuss positions or reports with Council Members as they are developed—Council sees our reports at the same time as the public.
- ✦ Recommendations may not match Council Members' positions.

Even if individual Council members may not agree with our position, the City Council as a whole is relying on our office to be objective and unbiased, so they respect our objectivity and independence.



# About our office...

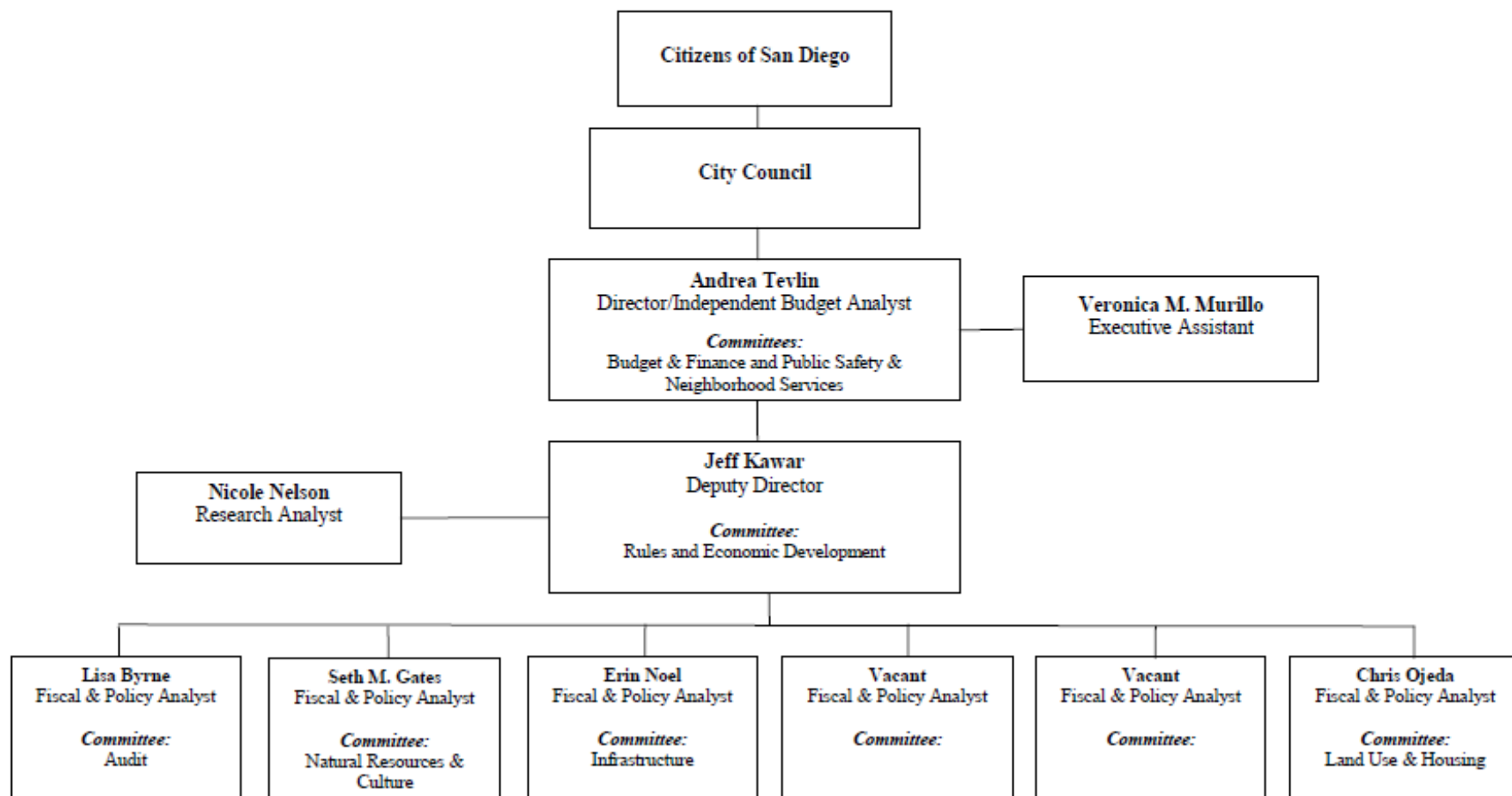


Small office of 10 staff members:

- + IBA
- + Deputy Director
- + Executive Assistant
- + 6 Senior Fiscal & Policy Analysts
- + Research Analyst



## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST



# About the IBA...



Andrea Tevlin is the City's first IBA and heads our Office.



- ✚ Involved in City government for 29+ years.
- ✚ Before coming to San Diego, she was the Deputy City Manager for the City of Phoenix, AZ.
- ✚ Her education includes:
  - Masters in Public Administration (MPA), Arizona State University
  - Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Sociology, Carroll College

# About the IBA...



- ✚ The IBA is not elected, but appointed by the City Council and can only be removed by a majority vote of Council.
- ✚ The IBA:
  - manages and leads the direction of our office, and
  - hires all staff in our office.

# What we do...



Each analyst in our office has responsibility to monitor certain departments and issues. We review analyze, develop reports, and present on:

- ✚ Annual budget
- ✚ Financial reports
- ✚ Budget monitoring reports
- ✚ Legislative items (going to Committee or full Council)
- ✚ Proactive reports on issues we believe are important and deserve attention



# Important Issues for the City



- ✦ Balancing the FY 2014 Budget (\$40 million projected deficit)
- ✦ Infrastructure
- ✦ Economic Development
- ✦ Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- ✦ Environment
- ✦ Public Safety
- ✦ Transportation
- ✦ Dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies

# What else we do...



- We serve as a resource for Council and the public:
- ✚ Attend all Committee and Council meetings
  - ✚ Work with City staff as directed
  - ✚ Attend special task force and other meetings
  - ✚ Provide information on issues to Council and the public

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO 

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE CITY'S BUDGET  
PROCESS & THE  
FY 2013 ADOPTED BUDGET



*This guide aims to provide a solid foundation of knowledge for understanding the City of San Diego's budget process and the FY 2013 Adopted Budget.*

**IBA**

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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO 



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE  
TO INFRASTRUCTURE



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*This guide was developed by our office to provide a solid foundation of knowledge about infrastructure and the City of San Diego's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for interested citizens.*

# Informing the public...



Understanding the budget and other issues is important to enable citizens to effectively become involved and provide thoughtful input to Council, the Mayor, and City staff.

- ✚ City government provides services for citizens.
- ✚ Decisions made by Council and the Mayor affect lives of citizens.

Easily accessible and understandable information helps to lift the cloud of confusion from complex government issues, and may encourage public participation.



# How can citizens access IBA reports



- ✦ Our Citizens' Guides, reports, and presentations are available on our website: [www.sandiego.gov/iba](http://www.sandiego.gov/iba).
  - The public can also subscribe to our mailing list on our website.
- ✦ Updates on our activities and links to our reports are announced on [twitter@SanDiegoIBA](https://twitter.com/SanDiegoIBA)
- ✦ Report presentations and comments at Council and Committee meetings are on City TV.
  - Archives are on the [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov) home page.

# Main Points to Remember



- ✚ The IBA was created to ensure the legislative branch and executive branch are co-equal, and to serve as Council's fiscal and policy advisor.
- ✚ The Office of the IBA's mission is to conduct *clear, objective and unbiased* research for the City Council and the Public.
  - We strive to provide information to help Council make informed decisions.
  - We advocate for transparency, disclosure and complete and accurate information.