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San Diego City Council Holds First of Several Budget Discussions

San Diego, CA – San Diego City Council will hold the first of several budget discussions at a 6:00 p.m. hearing on Monday February 23, 2026. The time of the session was scheduled to allow San Diego residents to submit their comments on the budget after working hours.

“We face a challenging financial situation for the coming year, and difficult decisions will need to be made to balance the FY2027 budget,” said San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava. “Every city department will experience some level of reduction. This is an opportunity for San Diegans to tell us what services are most important to them, and which have lower priority. We will be making reductions in staffing, expenses, and city services, help the Council make the right choices.”

Current estimates anticipate a deficit of an estimated \$120 million dollars for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027. This follows dramatic cuts made to balance the current year’s budget.

Passing the annual budget is one of the most important duties of the San Diego City Council as it dictates funding for services across all departments of the City of San Diego.

Public involvement is key to formulating the budget as Councilmembers hear from constituents through community meetings, emails, letters, phone calls and public comment and Council meetings.

“As the Mayor prepares his proposed budget for the FY2027 cycle, the focus must remain on protecting core city services, right sizing operations, and ensuring equity remains at the forefront,” said Councilmember Henry Foster III. “The difficult decisions ahead will require transparency and meaningful community engagement. That is why public input is so critical. Monday is about

elevating community voices to help guide how the Mayor and Council prioritize resources and navigate the tough choices necessary to deliver core city services that meet the needs of all residents.”

Members of the public can participate in person at the 12th Floor of the City Administration Building in Downtown San Diego, or via zoom. More information on attending the meeting and translation services can be found on the [Monday's City Council Meeting Agenda](#).

The next 6:00 p.m. session to discuss the budget will be held on Tuesday, March 10.

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Council President Joe LaCava represents San Diego's First Council District, which includes the communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and a portion of University City west of the 1-5.