



**Office of Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry**  
**San Diego City Council**  
**District 1**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Budget Principles**

**San Diego**— City government is facing a very challenging financial outlook, in part a result of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two of the City's largest sources of revenue, sales tax and the hotel visitor tax, are down dramatically, and are not likely to fully recover for some time.

Out of a \$1.5 billion general fund budget, the Mayor is projecting a combined \$250 million revenue shortfall for the fiscal year ending June 30 and the next fiscal year.

As chair of the City Council's Budget Review Committee, I will be holding public hearings beginning April 30 designed to give residents and businesses input into the very difficult decisions the Council must make to address these historic challenges.

We will have time to get into more detail as those hearings approach, but today I want to lay out some general budget principles that should guide the Council's deliberations:

1. Every crisis presents an opportunity to re-think the way we provide services and facilities for our constituents.
2. I will ask every department to re-think the way they operate and provide options for more efficient and effective ways to serve the public. I encourage you to think creatively and speak boldly.
3. Just as the City Council must hold every department accountable for its performance, so too must the Council be held accountable for protecting taxpayers and providing clear direction and priorities for City departments.
4. I will demand a transparent budget process that is accessible and understandable for residents whether or not you have Internet access.
5. The budget must be, first and foremost, based on responding to the community's needs, not on maintaining the City bureaucracy. It's disappointing to me that most of the proposed budget reductions are in neighborhood services, while bloated management is mostly untouched.

The Council has taken a prudent initial action by approving a salary ordinance that provides no pay raises in the next fiscal year.

Other key actions will include completing the sale of the stadium property to SDSU as soon as possible so this revenue is available quickly and the stadium operations liability is eliminated, extricating the City from its lease for the still vacant 101 Ash Street, and ending expensive overtime payments for our public safety services.

I look forward to a vigorous debate about the City's budget priorities and to decisive action by the Council to secure the City's financial stability during trying financial times.

*Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.*

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