



# Coffee Chat on The FY24 Budget and Legislative Process



PARENTS AMPLIFYING  
VOICES in EDUCATION



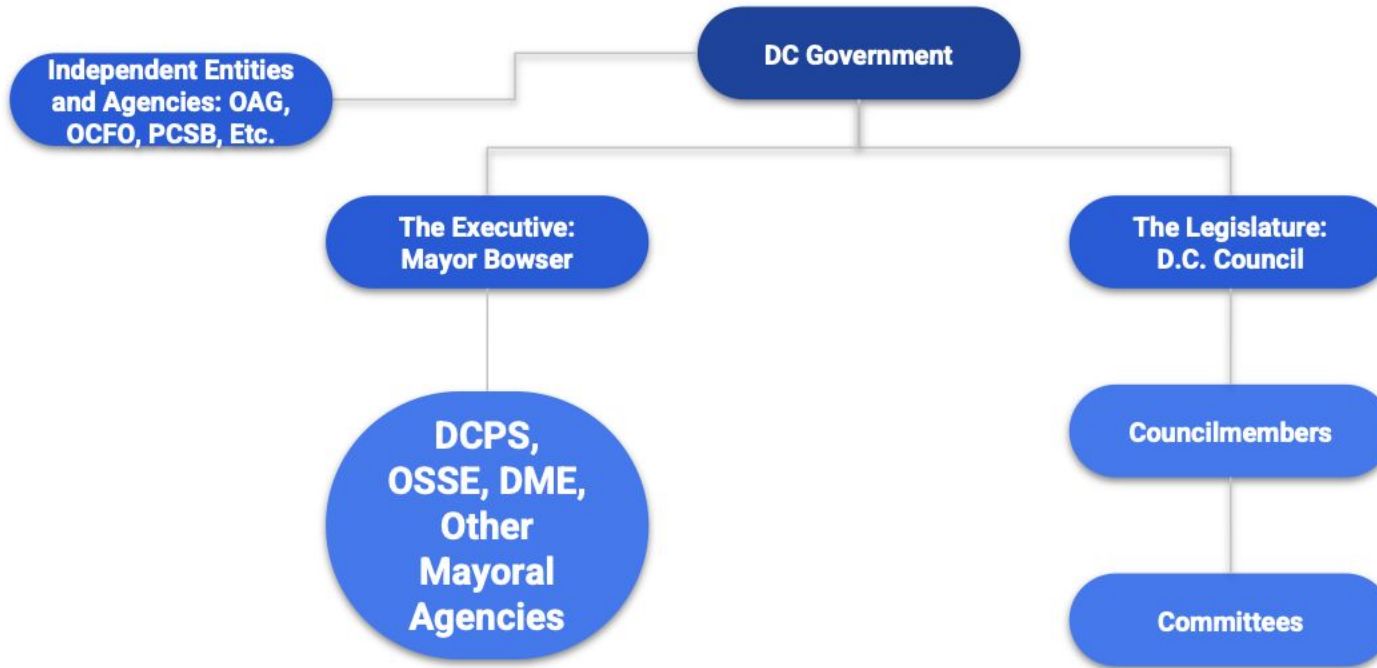
## Warm Up: How a bill becomes a law in DC

How does a bill go from idea to law in DC?





## Refresher: The Who of DC Government





## The Council: Structure and Committees

- The Council is comprised of 13 members:
  - The Chair, 4 at-large members, and 8 ward members.
- Legislative and oversight responsibilities divided between their committees.
- Number of committees can change, freshman legislators do not receive committees their first 2 years—or first council period

### Who decides the committees?

The Council Chair will propose the committees, their chairs, and the agencies and topics under their purview.

The Council then votes to approve that plan.



## The Council: Committees for Council Period 25

- **Committee of the Whole**
- Business & Economic Development
- Executive Admin & Labor
- Facilities & Family Services
- Transportation & Environment
- Health
- Hospital and Health Equity
- Housing and Human Services
- Judiciary & Public Safety
- Public Works & Operations
- Recreation, Libraries & Youth Affairs

All committees in purple have new or first-time chairs.



**Bills can be introduced in two basic ways:**

1. By members of the D.C. Council after they've been developed and drafted:
  - a. Through their own research
  - b. At the request of members of the public, advocates, organizations or businesses.
  
1. **At the request of the Mayor, AG, or other government entity**
  - a. The technical introduction is still made by a member of the Council
  - b. Most often it's the Chairman.
    - i. You may have heard a bill being referenced something like *"Introduced on January 12, 2023 by the Chairman at the request of the Mayor.."*

# Legislative Process



## Introduction and Referral

The Bill is introduced  
Chairman determines referral  
Can be to more than one committee  
“Comments”

## Committee Holds Hearing

Every bill must have a hearing to be voted on.  
Some bills have multiple hearings  
After the hearing, committee staff will revise the bill and include this “Committee Print” in the Committee Report.

## Committee Markup

Bills must be voted “out of committee”  
The committee chair will “move” the committee print.  
A majority of committee members present at the vote must approve the measure.

## COW, 1st and 2nd Reading

Once out of committee, the bill moves to a Committee of the Whole review.  
After COW, the bill is voted on at least twice at 1st and 2nd reading.  
Rarely a bill can receive a 3rd reading.

## Mayor’s Signature or Veto

The bill is transmitted to the Mayor.  
If she signs it, it is sent onto Congress for the Congressional Review Period.  
If she vetoes, Council can override with 9 votes.

# Budget Process Refresher



**Mayor Proposes  
Budget**

**Council Holds  
Hearings**

**Committee  
Markups**

**COW Budget  
and 1st  
Reading**

**2nd Reading  
and Mayoral  
Review**

March 22

March 27 - April 12

April 25 - April 27

May 16

May 30

Mayor Transmits  
Budget to Council

Committee Public  
Hearings on the "Fiscal  
Year 2024 Local  
Budget Act of 2023."

Committee Markups  
and Reporting on  
Agency Budgets

Chairman Mendelson  
proposes COW budget  
and COW review.

2nd Reading of the  
Local Budget Act &  
Federal Portion

1st Reading of Local  
Budget Act & Budget  
Support Act

TBD:

2nd Reading of the  
Budget Support Act





### ***Subject to Appropriations***

The Council can only pass legislation that is paid for, per the anti-deficiency laws enacted by Congress. However, they can pass bills that are “subject to appropriation” which means they only are legally in effect when a subsequent budget includes funding for it, for example, McDuffie’s Baby Bonds.

### ***Emergency Bills***

These are bills that are in effect for 90 days. They cannot be “subject to appropriation”.

### ***Temporary Bills***

Same as Emergency bills, these go into effect for 120 days and cannot be “subject to appropriation”.



# The FY24 Budget Results

# The State of DC Revenues

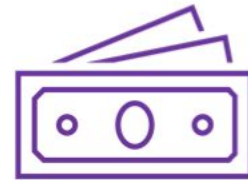


- The District was facing a **\$1.7B budget deficit** after the CFO released February revenue estimates.
- **Costs are rising significantly** to provide government services—inflation across the board—AND...
- Revenues are **shrinking!** Falling commercial real state values because of telework and the end of big federal funding from pandemic recovery funds.

# How the Mayor Balanced Her Budget



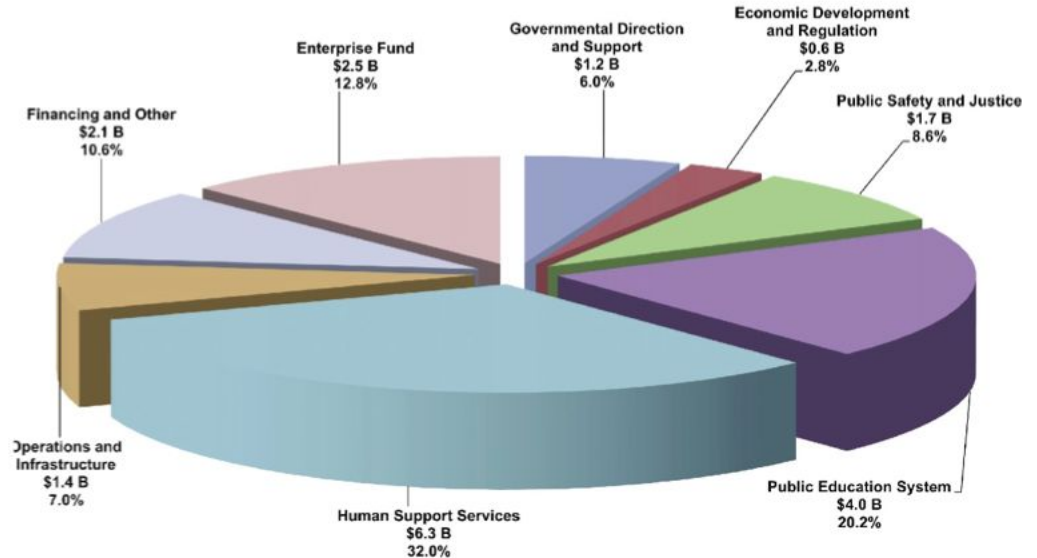
- Used **\$257M** from DC's financial reserve funds.
- CFO certified **\$578M** in new revenues from installing hundreds of new speed and traffic cameras.
- **\$148M** from federal reimbursements from the pandemic
- **\$373M** in spending reductions, mostly from eliminating 749 vacant positions.



# Overview of the FY24 Budget



- **\$19.8B gross budget**
- **\$10.7B Local Funds budget**
- **Local Fund resources decreased from the FY23 Approved Budget**



# Budget Priorities that Matter to YOU!



- Increased per-pupil funding totaling \$145M!
- OST:
  - Security costs covered for OST
  - \$3.124M to OST grants and 5,000 new DPR seats
  - \$1.875M for My Afterschool DC
- SBMH:
  - \$89,366 per CBO
  - OSSE/DBH received \$9.7M grant for SBMH professionals
- \$9M for Safe Passage Programming—flat year-over-year.

# Things to remember going into next year's budget!



- **THE FISCAL CLIFF IS HERE!**
  - The federal government allocated billions of dollars to state and local governments during the pandemic including major education funding streams like ESSR. Those funds expire this coming year and now all the positions, programs, and activities supported with that money must be funded through other sources.
- **The local economy is dicey:**
  - The same funding challenges the Mayor faced in this year's budget will likely be even greater next year.