

# CITY OF BERKELEY **Council Worksession**



***2026 Community Survey: Ballot Measure Considerations***  
**December 2, 2025**

# Context and Background

- Current Needs, Past Investments, and 2026 Planning
- What is the Community Survey?
- Prior Funded Projects

# Review Possible Measures

- Methodology
- Potential Themes
  - *Critical Infrastructure*
  - *Public Safety*
  - *Community Facilities & Quality of Life*

# GO Bond Analysis

- What is a General Obligation (GO) Bond?
- GO Bond Analysis

# Timelines

- Ballot Measure Schedule
- Community Survey RFP Schedule

# Council Discussion

- Guiding Questions

# Agenda



Above Image: Berkeley Ballot Drop-Box

# Current Needs, Past Investments, and 2026 Planning

## Scale of the Challenge

*Berkeley faces \$1B+ in unfunded infrastructure and deferred maintenance.*

Today's discussion will guide a survey to assess voter interest in a 2026 GO Bond (up to \$300M).

## Investments Made to Date

*Measures T1, O, M have funded key citywide infrastructure*

T1, O, M, funded street and green-infrastructure upgrades, delivered \$183M in facility improvements across 76 projects, and generated \$238M for ~1,400 affordable housing.

## Planning the Path Ahead

*Vision 2050 provides long-term guidance for resilient, future-ready infrastructure.*

In 2025, Council directed analysis of 2026 ballot measures for fire and community facility needs.

# What is the Community Survey?

Method	Goals	Content
<p>Survey Sample:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ~500 likely November 2026 voters</li><li>• ~15-minute survey</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gauge voter sentiment about City services and performance</li><li>• Identify voter priorities</li><li>• Assess support at different cost levels</li><li>• Test components + package options</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demographic data</li><li>• Perceptions of City government</li><li>• Top issues &amp; economic outlook</li><li>• Evaluation of components/projects</li><li>• Package options + costs</li></ul>

### Programs Assessed in Prior Surveys

- *Infrastructure*
- *Streets*
- *Parks and Pools*
- *Fire and Emergency Services*
- *Housing and Homeless Services*
- *Arts and Culture*



# Prior Funded Projects



Willard Clubhouse, funded by **Measure T I**



Berkeley Rose Garden Improvements, funded by **Measure T I**



The Hope Center, funded by **Measure O**



North Berkeley Senior Center, funded by **Measure T I**



Berkeley Marina Roadway Improvements Project, funded by **Measure T I**



Maudelle Miller Shirek Community, funded by **Measure O**

Examples of projects funded by past voter-approved bonds and measures.

# Prior Funded Projects



Outdoor Warning System: Emergency Siren Network, funded by **Measure FF**



Presentation Park Rain Garden, funded by **Measure M**



Homeless Services (e.g., outreach services, meals), funded by **Measure P**

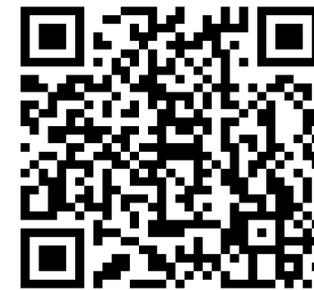


Berkeley Chipper Program, funded by **Measure FF**



Bioswale at Rose and Hopkins, funded by **Measure M**

For full list of voter-approved bond and revenue measure projects, scan the QR code below or visit our city website:



[berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/bond-revenue-measures](https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/bond-revenue-measures)

# Methodology

- Criteria-based evaluation prioritizing:
  - **Public health & safety**
  - **Infrastructure resilience**
  - **Community use & equity**
  - **Geographic balance**
  - **Deliverability & readiness**
  - **External funding opportunities**
- Project portfolio aligns with the broader principles reflected in Vision 2050.
- Applied within a **\$100M per-category cap** (\$300M total).

## Possible Measures



*Above Images: Maudelle Shirek Building & Interior Renderings*

# Themes:

## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

Parks, playgrounds, restrooms, aquatics, dog parks, cultural centers and waterfront improvements.

## Public Safety

Fire station modernization and critical upgrades to essential emergency-response facilities.

## Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility

Core systems and facilities that require seismic upgrades or repairs – Civic Center (i.e., Maudelle Shirek Building) improvements, ADA, 50/50 program sidewalk projects.

# Possible Measures



# Lead Projects

## ➤ Modernization of high-use community hubs

- Frances Albrier Community Center
- King Pool & Locker Room
- Harrison Field
- Live Oak Courts & Lighting
- San Pablo Sports Field
- Citywide Dog Parks – 4-6 Sites
- Park Restroom Upgrades:  
*Codornices Park • Glendale La Loma Park • Harrison Park •  
Cedar Rose Park • Cesar Chavez Park*

# Community Facilities



*Above Image: City of Berkeley Codornices Park*

# Lead Projects

- **Neighborhood parks, open space, waterfront access, and climate resilience**
  - Adeline Corridor Open Space
  - Aquatic Park – *Dreamland Area Improvements*
  - Cesar Chavez Park – *Pathway*
  - Marina Docks – *Timber Pile Replacement*
  - Sea Level Rise – *Bay Trail/Marina Blvd*
  - Sea Level Rise – *University Ave Bike Park*
  - South Cove Seawall Replacement
  - University Ave / Seawall Dr / Bay Trail / Plaza

## Quality of Life

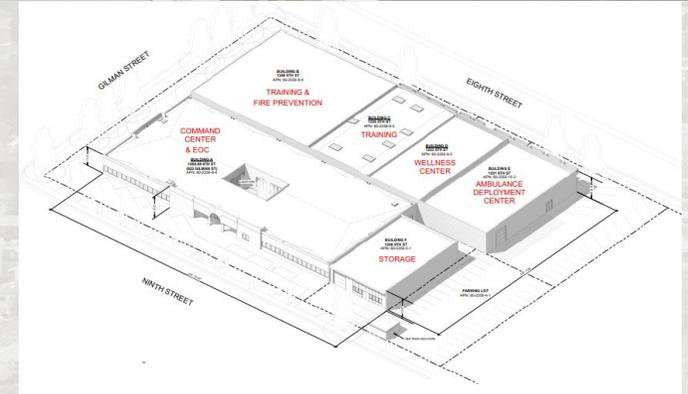


*Above Image: City of Berkeley South Cove Sailing Basin Seawall*

# Lead Projects

- **911 Dispatch Center:** 2100 MLK Jr. Way
- **Fire Station 4:** 1900 Marin Ave
- **Fire Station 6:** 999 Cedar Street
  - *Hope to move to the new Fire Headquarters*
- **Fire Training Center:** 997 Cedar Street
  - *Hope to move to the new Fire Headquarters*

## Public Safety



**Above Image:** Renderings and concept drawings of Berkeley Fire Training Center (top left), Fire Station 4 (top right), and BFD Headquarters (bottom)

## Lead Projects

- **Seismic upgrades of three buildings to advance the vision of Civic Center Project**
  - Maudelle Shirek Building (2134 MLK Jr.)
  - Veterans Memorial Building (1931 Center)
  - MLK Jr. Civic Center Annex (1947 Center)
- **Modernization of high use civic facilities**
  - MLK Jr. Civic Center Building (2180 Milvia)
  - Public Safety Center (2100 MLK Jr.)
  - Berkeley Animal Shelter (1 Bolivar Dr.)

# Critical Infrastructure



*Above Images: Veterans Services Building & Interior Renderings*

# Lead Projects

- Citywide ADA accessibility improvements
- Fully fund 50/50 Program Sidewalk Projects

# Accessibility

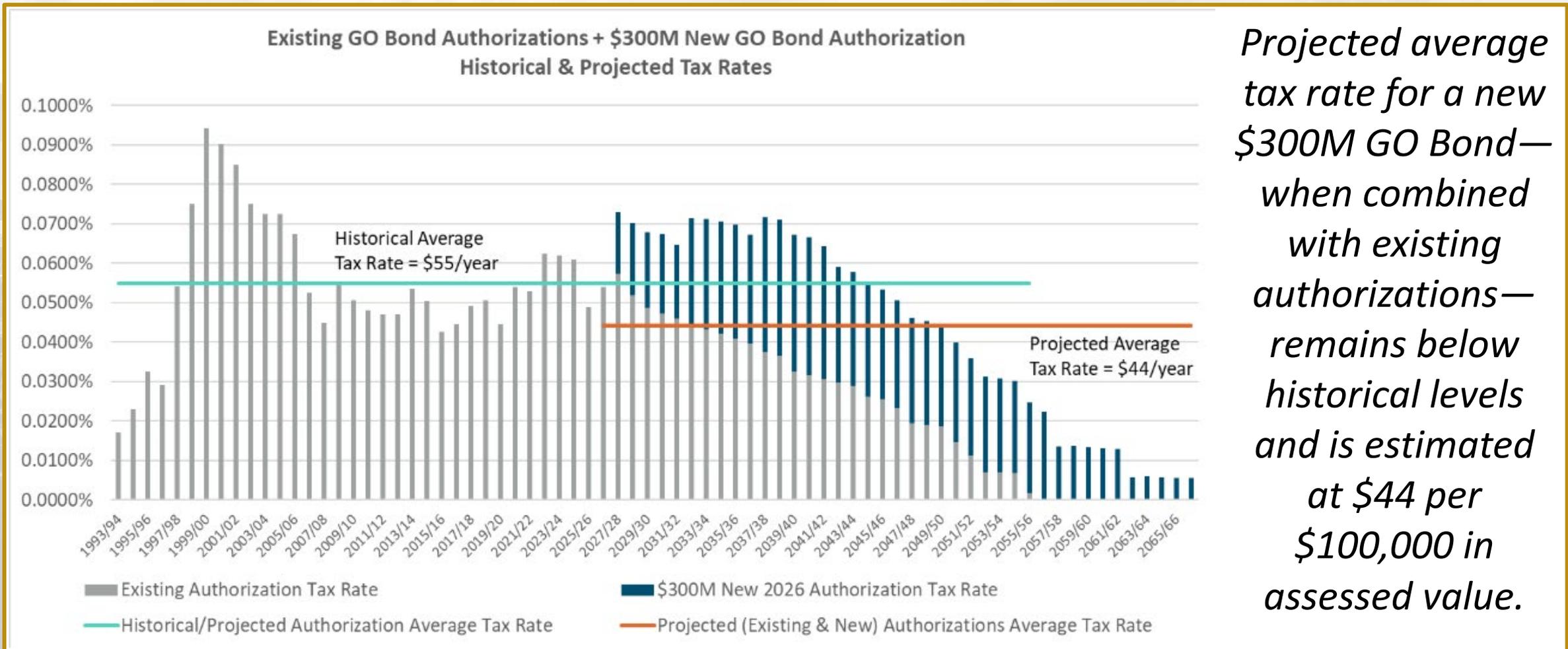


*Above Image: City of Berkeley staff assesses sidewalk*

# What is a General Obligation (GO) Bond?

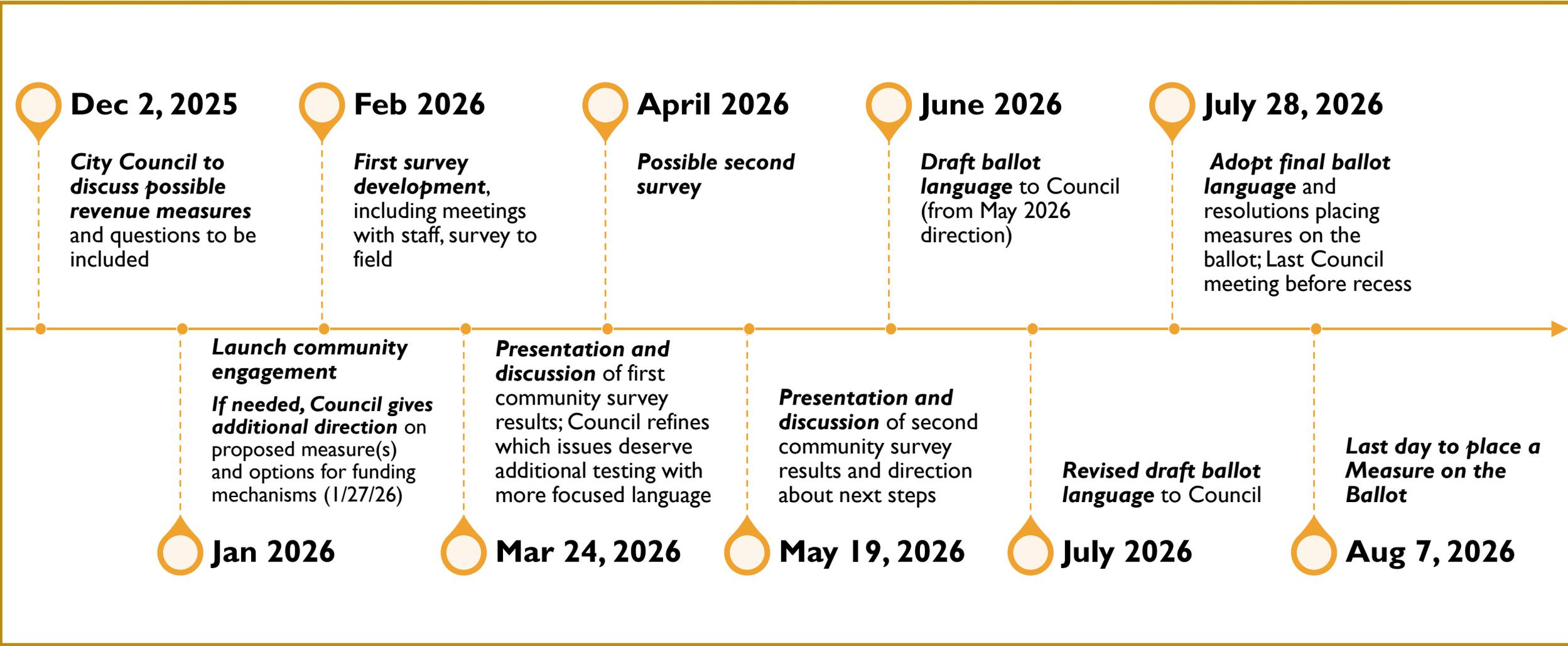
<b>How GO Bonds Work</b>	<b>Purpose of a GO Bond</b>	<b>What GO Bond Funding Can Support</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-term borrowing for capital projects</li><li>• City issues bonds; investors are repaid through property taxes</li><li>• Costs based on assessed property value</li><li>• Requires two-thirds voter approval</li><li>• Typically repaid over ~30 years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fund major capital improvements</li><li>• Modernize or replace aging facilities</li><li>• Support safety, infrastructure, and resilience upgrades</li><li>• Provide voter-approved, transparent financing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buildings &amp; facilities (libraries, fire stations, community centers)</li><li>• Streets, sidewalks, transportation safety</li><li>• Parks, pools, and recreation facilities</li><li>• Stormwater, waterfront, and climate-resilience projects</li><li>• Capital only — not for ongoing operational costs</li></ul>

# General Obligation (GO) Bond Analysis



*Projected average tax rate for a new \$300M GO Bond—when combined with existing authorizations—remains below historical levels and is estimated at \$44 per \$100,000 in assessed value.*

# Illustrative Timeline



# Guiding questions for discussion:

- **Should the City proceed with a community survey?**
- **For the proposed GO Bond:**
  - Does the Council wish to explore a bond measure for infrastructure improvements?
  - If so, is Council supportive of evaluating an amount up to approximately \$300 million for inclusion in the survey?
  - Are there any additional projects that staff should evaluate and consider adding to the proposed list of projects?
  - Are there any projects that should be removed from the proposed list?

# Council Discussion



Above Image: Berkeleyan Turns in Ballot at Drop-Box



Thank You!