



## Budget Information

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Dear Constituents, Neighbors and Friends,

Thank many of you for contacting my office with your concerns about the City Budget. This year, as the City's budget approaches \$4 billion, we are making detailed decisions to carefully allocate the tax dollars you have entrusted to us.

I have received many calls and emails about Dallas Police Department funding. We have a strong and well qualified police force with thousands of dedicated officers. Last year salaries were made competitive across the ranks and starting salaries were increased. The pension fund also received a tax payer bailout which you continue to pay for. The Manager's proposed budget increases the police department budget by \$10 million. The budget process gives us the opportunity to reallocate services within the department to more effectively deliver police services to our residents.

As with any City department or service there is always room for improvement. Merely throwing money at crime does not fix it. We must be smarter about how the money is spent. Currently, DPD has about 3200 officers. 1400 of these officers are not in call taking positions and many are doing administrative tasks that do not require their level of training or expensive salary. By moving officers to patrol and having civilians do administrative tasks, we can increase patrol hours and presence, reduce response times and have budget savings. Resistance to moving officers from "behind the desk" to "behind the wheel" comes from labor groups and officers in desk jobs. Being a police officer is a tough and dangerous job, but we need officers to do the job they are trained for and paid to do.

A study conducted by KPMG does not call for more officers, it calls for moving many of the 1400 officers that have non-patrol positions from behind the desk into call taking positions. Again, through civilianization we can both reduce costs AND increase the availability of officers without using expensive overtime. The City paid \$500,000 for the study and the recommendations should be implemented.

For additional information about the Staffing Study conducted by KPMG please view [here](#).

Rhetoric calling "to defund the bureaucracy" is simplistic. Each of the hundreds of services we offer must be evaluated on its merits. My colleagues and I debated over 80 amendments to make the City more efficient. The Mayor is unwilling to do the hard work budgeting requires and he chose to leave the meeting rather than participate in budget discussions. Campaigning rather than collaborating on the budget fails to recognize the importance of this task, which is the most important thing the City Council does.

You may review the budget and process on the City's Financial Transparency website [here](#).

At the Council meeting **tomorrow, September 23** at 9:00 AM, the City Council will vote to adopt the budget on second reading, along with other action items, including a vote on the

property tax rate. In the past I have voted against the tax increase and the budget. Again, the proposed tax-rate reduction is insufficient to offset the increase in property values, so you should expect a tax increase. You may watch the Dallas City Council Meeting on cable channel 95, listen on WRR 101.1 AM, or follow it online [here](#).

It has been a pleasure to serve you and participate in the budget process for the last eight years.

Sincerely,



Lee M. Kleinman  
Council Member  
District 11

## Contact Us

We enjoy hearing from you and ask that you continue to connect with our office. As always, our office is here to assist with any service requests and any policy questions.

Sincerely,

**The District 11 Team**

City of Dallas | Mayor & City Council Office, 1500 Marilla Street, Room 5FN, Dallas, TX 75201

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