



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING in AZ

Engaging Arizona's Youth in Civic Life

School Participatory Budgeting (SPB), expanded by the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), empowers students to “learn democracy by doing” by deciding how district funds are used to improve their school communities and prepares young people to be active, informed, and engaged participants in civic life.

Participatory Budgeting 101

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend a portion of the public budget. The process originated in Puerto Alegre, Brazil in 1989 and has since grown to more than 7,500 PB processes across the globe at the municipal, state, and national level. PB gives ordinary people real power over real money, empowers community voice, sheds light on community needs and provides a space for equitable public spending.

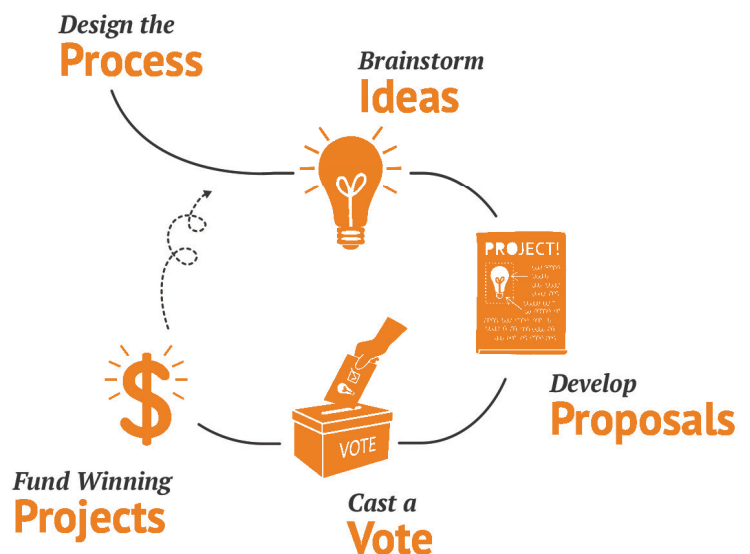
Participatory Budgeting in Arizona

Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) is the first district in the U.S. to implement the PB process. Since 2016, PXU has scaled PB from 5 schools to district-wide expansion. The model has sparked adoption in school districts in Arizona and across the nation.

- 4 Arizona school district implementing PB processes, including Phoenix, Chandler, Mesa, and Sunnyside
- \$250k district funds allocated to PB
- 40,000 + students engaged annually
- 3,000 students registered to vote since 2016

How It Works

Through a process of participating in PB steering committees, students lead a five-step process with the support of their teachers and the community. Students cultivate ideas, develop proposals, and vote to fund improvement projects that build stronger school communities.



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Student & Community Impact

PB builds stronger school communities and develops students' critical thinking, communication, problem-solving skills, and agency.

PB has the potential to transform Arizona's civic health by developing a pipeline of civic leaders who are more informed, equipped and empowered to participate in civic life for the long-term.

"PB changed my views; I saw that not only can I change the campus, but I can also change other student's lives. It really made us feel like we are in charge of this, and we are very important people, and our voices are being heard." – Tayiza, Cesar Chavez High School (2019)

"PB taught me to make new friends and be more open to new ideas." – Lucy, Carl Hayden High School (2019)

"The initiative is helping us to create an environment that nurtures leadership in our students, promotes civic engagement and builds community throughout every school within our district." – Dr. Chad Gestson, Superintendent, Phoenix Union High School District (2017)

"When I get older, I still want to be seeing what's wrong with my community, coming up with ways to fix it, and then acting upon it. That's what I like doing, I just never really go the chance to act upon it until now with PB." – Alma, Carl Hayden High School (2017)



PARTNERS



Learn more: arizonafuture.org/PB

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The Center for the Future of Arizona brings Arizonans together to build a bright future for our state.

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