



AFTAB PUREVAL

City of Cincinnati, Office of the Mayor

May 22nd, 2025

Dear Members of Council:

I am transmitting to you a copy of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Biennial Budget for your review. Our City is also making a copy of this document available to the public on the website.

Since we've taken office, we have seen a historically challenging fiscal reality for Cincinnati and cities across the nation. Federal support, growth-oriented investments, and shrewd management of our finances kept our City financially healthy through these times. However, when American Rescue Plan funds were no longer available to support our budget, we were ready with a plan to ensure our fiscal health, continue building for our future, and maintain the excellent services residents depend upon. This budget is a demonstration of the fact that the City of Cincinnati made the hard decisions to prepare for this moment.

Our City Administration has made challenging, forward-thinking decisions in this budget to maximize the effectiveness of our public dollars. Many departments, projects, and investments across our City have had to look at how they can do more with less. It is a fundamental challenge of Government to find efficiency without sacrificing services, yet the success of this moment reflects years-long planning by the Administration.

We are, without American Rescue Plan funds, delivering a structurally balanced budget. Beyond that, we are investing in Cincinnati's core, foundational priorities. The City has once again increased the pension contribution, building upon years of measures to ensure employees are taken care of. Police and Fire staffing are supported with funding for a full slate of recruit classes. And after our communities experienced generational weather incidents this winter – which strained the capacity of our public services – we are providing a significant boost to staffing and resources for road repair.

The City of Cincinnati's greatest assets are the employees who show up daily to serve residents, rain or shine, and we will continue to make sure the resources are there for them to do their jobs.

This budget's structural balance is the product of difficult, future-focused decisions made in the past. The City has access to trust fund revenue from the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway for the first time, providing \$30 million more funds to support our existing infrastructure. These have been direly needed resources to combat our longstanding deferred capital maintenance – the roads, bridges, public spaces, and City facilities that have for too long been underfunded. And from the start of the sale, our Administration has promised and delivered a transparent, equity-driven plan.

Thanks to the Cincy on Track initiative, we are more than doubling our resources to pave and rehabilitate our roads. We are investing in historically underserved neighborhoods, and we are back on the path to building a Cincinnati where all residents have the infrastructure they deserve.

For cities like ours to thrive, we have to be able to meet our current challenges while continuing to plan for our future. We are as strong as we are because our Council, Administration, and partners have been steadfast in investing in our strategies to promote equitable growth, affordable housing, climate resilience, and safe communities. With this budget, we are advancing our goals while maintaining our financial health.

Alongside the Administration's recommended budget, I am proposing further investments in our growth and vibrancy. These include supplements to our leveraged support of the neighborhood-level organizations improving residents' quality of life, resources to bolster proven community investment programs, and allocations to boost the special events and economic development efforts that will drive our future growth.

This budget is not the ultimate solution to our challenges. Costs continue to rise faster than revenues, and we still face economic uncertainties. But as we have demonstrated, we will not stop investing in our values.

Our collective work to seek public feedback is not finished, and I look forward to continued community engagement and a thoughtful deliberation from this Council.

Sincerely,



Aftab Pureval

Mayor, City of Cincinnati