

# Balancing Act Pilot

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## Summary Report



October 30, 2019

# The numbers – how many people have accessed the simulation

550  
sessions

Average  
time on site  
= 6 minutes

148  
submitted  
budgets



# Effectiveness of budget simulation

When asked: Do you think the simulation is an effective way to gather resident feedback on the Dane County budget?

67% Yes

33% No



# Comments from the public on the simulation

“Couldn’t make any suggestions, but found the process very interesting and informative. Excellent way to inform the public and get input. Well-designed graphics were easy to follow for this not especially tech savvy senior. Thanks!”

“Really love this idea. Informative way to learn about where our money is being spent and to learn which departments do what things”.

“A hard copy form should be sent to all registered voters and students living within Dane County. Not everyone has or uses a computer”.



# The results... what has been submitted so far

Capital budget

Looking at the median submission changes:

Top categories for increases in spending: Public Works, Culture, Education & Recreation

Top categories for decreases in spending: General Government, Public Safety and Criminal Justice



# The results... what has been submitted so far

Operating budget

Looking at the median submission changes:

Top categories for increases in spending: Public Works, Conservation & Economic Development

Top categories for decreases in spending: General Government, Culture, Education and Recreation



# Comments from within the simulation

“Veterans deserve more time and attention from our community. They gave the ultimate sacrifice and now it is time for us to sacrifice for them”

“I am shocked this is so low (and I understand it’s quite a boost from prior years). Many other social problems are caused by or exacerbated by lack of housing. Housing first models save significant resources on other, more reactive programs...”

“Events at the facility should cover the cost of the facility there should not be a 10M deficit every year. We need this money to go else where. Use the remaining \$5M to generate additional revenue to cover costs”



# Questions