



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Seattle City Council Budget Process

JANUARY 15, 2021

DAN EDER, INTERIM DIRECTOR, COUNCIL CENTRAL STAFF

Budget Roles

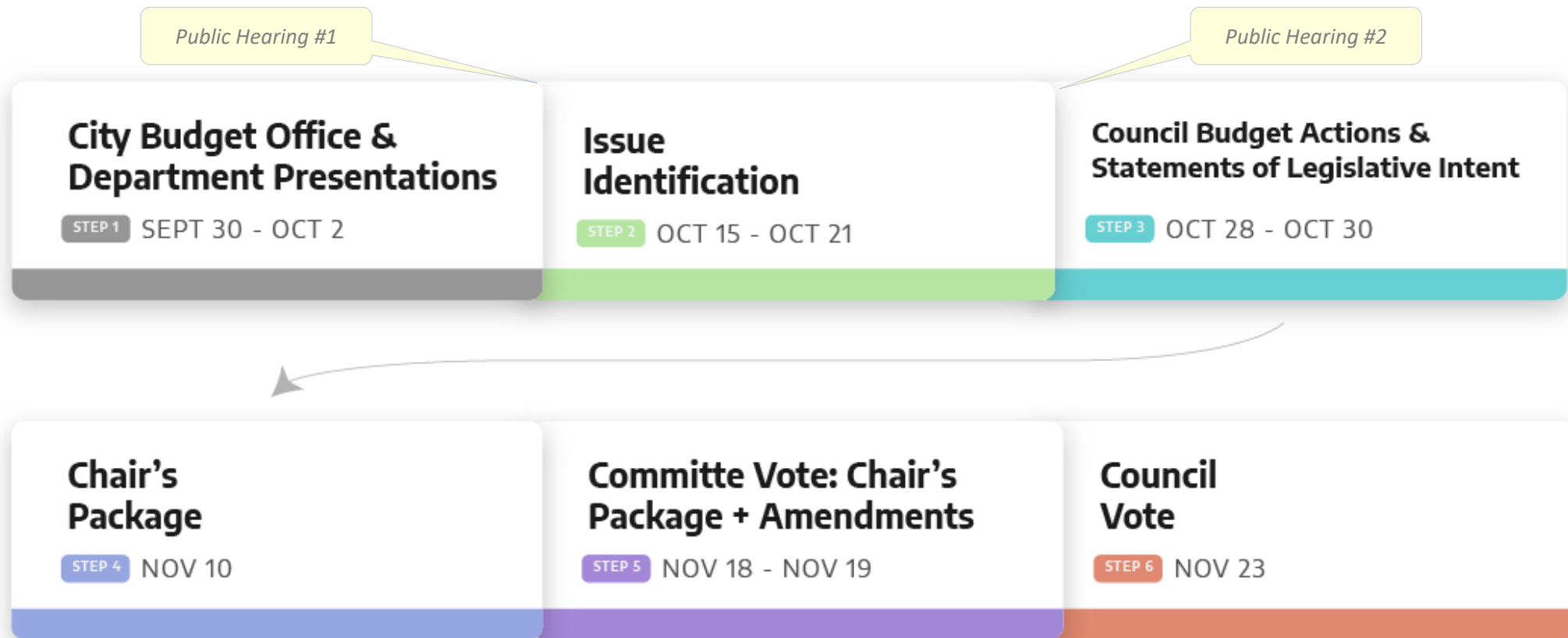
The Mayor:

- Pursuant to RCW 35.32A.030, the Mayor prepares and submits to the Council a proposed annual budget 90 days prior to the next fiscal year.
- The proposed budget must be balanced – that is, proposed spending cannot exceed estimated resources.

The Council:

- Reviews and modifies the Mayor's proposal, and ultimately adopts a final balanced City budget.
- Takes an active role in adjusting the budget and incorporating its legislative priorities and informed by the Council's public process.
- Must adopt a balanced budget not later than 30 days prior to the next fiscal year.

Six Steps in the Council's Budget Process



What is a proviso?

- Places specific spending restrictions on appropriations within the adopted budget
- Spending restriction is removed (“lifted”) either through an ordinance or when prescribed conditions have been met

Equitable Communities Initiative (ECI)

- About \$30 million included in Finance General's 2021 Adopted Budget for ECI
 - \$29.9 million: 2021 Adopted Budget Council Budget Action FG-003-B-002
 - \$100,000: CB 119862 (2020 Q3 Supp Budget Ordinance) for admin support
- Imposed two provisos restricting spending ECI funding

ECI Proviso #1 – Council Budget Action FG-003-B-002

“Of the appropriation in the 2021 budget for Finance General Reserves, \$29,500,000 is appropriated solely to fund the Equitable Communities Initiative and actions recommended to the City by the Equitable Communities Task Force and may be spent for no other purpose.

Furthermore, none of the money so appropriated may be spent until authorized by future ordinance.

The Council anticipates that such authority will not be granted until the Executive submits to the Council a plan for spending the funds that describes how the allocations were informed. The Council expects that there will be alignment between the Task Force and the Participatory Budgeting process to ensure that investments are coordinated.”

ECI Proviso #2 – Council Budget Action FG-003-B-002

“Of the appropriation in the 2021 budget for Finance General Reserves, \$400,000 is appropriated solely to fund develop a robust facilitation process and convene community for the purpose of providing recommendations for the Equitable Communities Initiative and may be spent for no other purpose.”

Participatory Budgeting Council Budget Actions

- About \$30 million included in Finance General's 2021 Adopted Budget for Participatory Budgeting (through multiple budget actions)
 - \$18 million redirected from the Mayor's proposed funding for ECI
 - \$12 million cut from the Seattle Police Department (SPD)
- Proviso restricts spending the \$30 million until a future ordinance
- An *additional* \$7.5 million is restricted by proviso in SPD's 2021 Adopted Budget and may be added to the Participatory Budgeting funding later in 2021 (if certain conditions are met)

Participatory Budgeting Proviso

“Of the appropriation in the 2021 budget for Finance General Reserves, [a collective \$30 million] is appropriated solely to run the Participatory Budgeting Process, implement actions recommended to the City from the Participatory Budgeting process, and develop a civilian crisis response and social services triage system app and may be spent for no other purpose.

Furthermore, none of the money so appropriated may be spent until authorized by future ordinance. Council anticipates that such authority will not be granted until the Executive submits to the Council a plan for spending the funds.”

Legislative Department Funding

- \$3 million in the Legislative Department’s 2020 Q3 Supp Budget Ordinance to “research processes that will promote public safety informed by community needs”
- Legislative Department contracted with King County Equity Now/Freedom Project
 - Contractor’s work is currently underway
 - Will inform the City’s 2021 Participatory Budgeting priorities, approach, and timing

Questions?