

How do I testify via email?

Send your comments to the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofomaha.org

You must provide your name and address to show that you are a citizen of Omaha.

Example email message:

"My name is <your name> and I would like to submit testimony for the next city council meeting about <topic>. My address is <your address>. Please forward this to the council members and include my testimony in the meeting record."

Know Your District Representative

Visit:

<https://citycouncil.cityofomaha.org/council-members> to locate your district by your address.

District 1: Pete Festersen

Pete.Festersen@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5527

District 2: Ben Gray

Ben.Gray@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5524

District 3: Chris Jerram

Chris.Jerram@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5525

District 4: Vinny Palermo

Vinny.Palermo@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5522

District 5: Rich Pahls

Rich.Pahls@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5528

District 6: Brinker Harding

Brinker.Harding@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5523

District 7: Aimee Melton

Aimee.Melton@cityofomaha.org
402-444-5526

Key Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, July 21st @ 2:00pm

Location: City Hall LC
Mayor Stothert delivers her proposed 2021Budget to the City Council

Wednesday, July 22nd @ 9:00-11:30am

Location: Jesse Lowe 3rd Floor
•Council Reviews Health insurance Plans, CIP(Community Improvement Projects), with an overview of General Budget.

Tuesday, August 4th @ 9:00am-2:00pm

Location: Room 702 City Hall
•Council Budget discussions

Tuesday, August 11th @ 6:30pm

Location: City Hall LC
•Public Hearing on CIP and Budget

This is the public's opportunity to be heard.

Wednesday, August 12th @ 1:00pm

•Budget Resolutions Due
•Opportunity to email/call blast city council

Tuesday, August 18th @ 2:00pm

Location: City Hall LC
•City Council will adopt Budget and CIP

Resources::

1. Drazdys, D., Hicks, A., Makinejad, S., Roh, S., Parker, A.,... Leimer, T. City of Omaha (2020). Annual Budget For Calendar Year 2020, pg. 38.
2. Herink, A., Drazdys, D., Hicks, A., Makinejad, S., Brott, A., ... Leimer, T. City of Omaha (2019) Annual Budget For Calendar Year 2019, pg 281.
3. Stothert, J, City of Omaha Finance Department. COVID-19 Expenses: March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020.



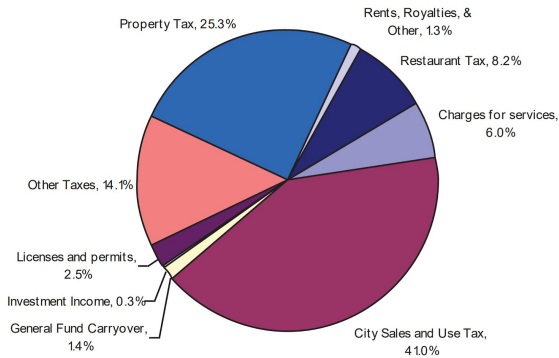
www.omahaabolitionresearch.org

Instagram, Twitter, FB: @omahaabolition

OPD & the General Fund Budget & How to Testify Before City Council

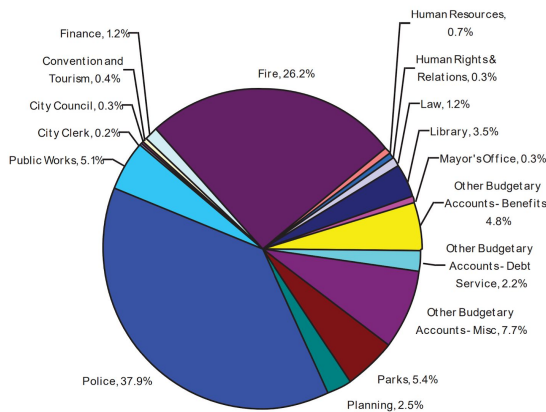


Revenue Sources City General Fund 2020 Budget



More **tax dollars** collected by the City of Omaha go **directly to the Police Department** than any other department.

Appropriations City General Fund 2020 Budget



The Omaha Police Department spends **nearly 40% (37.9)** of the City of Omaha's General Fund budget. ¹We spend 5.3% on parks, 5.1% on Public Works, 3.3% on Libraries, 0.3% on Human Rights and Relations. ¹

Excluding the Omaha Fire Department, **all other parts of our city's budget combined still do not equal the budget of the Omaha Police Department.** \$158,027,506 is dedicated to all other services (excluding OFD); \$159,056,130 to the police department. ¹

48% (Nearly 80 million dollars) of the OPD budget is dedicated to Uniform Patrol. ²

The City of Omaha currently faces an **80 million dollar budget shortfall due to Covid Response.** The Mayor's suggested plan for handling the budget shortfall can be found below. ³

- If we were to take that \$80 million from the OPD, they would still have the most funding of all budgets within the general fund (aside from the Fire Department).
- Even after an 80 million dollar reallocation, OPD would still have nearly 4x the budget of the third highest line item, which is Public Works

How to Testify before the Omaha City Council

When do they meet?

Most Tuesdays at 2pm. Some Tuesdays, they cancel the meeting and give themselves some time off.

How do I know what they will discuss or vote on?

This is usually decided at the last minute.

The agenda is emailed to interested citizens once they finalize it. The agenda is usually finalized on the Thursday before the next Council Meeting.



Request to be added to this email list by sending an email to the City Clerk at: cityclerk@cityofomaha.org
Example message: "Please add me to the email distribution list for agendas for the City Council's meetings/committees/hearings."

How do I testify in person?

Speaking at a Council Public Hearing

At the Public Hearing there will be a sign-in table where you will register if you would like to speak. You will be given a form to fill out asking basic information such as your first and last name, and your address. Once you have completed the form, return it to the table. They will often assign you a number so that you have an idea as to when you will be speaking.

When it is your time to speak you will be called on by number and name to approach the podium by the Council President. You will only be allowed to speak on topics directly related to the hearing (I.E. the city budget) and will be given three minutes time for your remarks. You will be notified when you have 30 seconds of time remaining so that you may summarize the rest of your remarks, and asked to stop when your three minutes are over.

If you have written out your statement, you may submit it, with your name and address, to the council so that they may have it for review and it will become part of the official record, so consider bringing copies.