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## City Launches Budget Survey

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city is seeking feedback from city residents, property owners, and business owners on the budget for the next fiscal year (2016-2017).

Harrisonburg operates on a fiscal year running July 1 through June 30. While the next budget year will not begin for several months, the planning has already begun.

Although presenting a balanced budget is one of the primary responsibilities of the city manager, with assistance from department directors, this document should also reflect the community's input, vision, and general needs.

What services or programs should be a priority for the city's next budget? What is important to you in Harrisonburg? What are you willing to do to protect the current services that are provided?

For the third consecutive year, the community has an opportunity to provide their input on the next budget months in advance of the public hearing.

A survey titled, "Preparing for the City's Next Budget" has been posted to *Be Heard Harrisonburg*, which serves as a public forum where the community is invited to engage in conversation with the city and other residents. The survey will be open for all to take until Monday, February 8.

To access this survey, visit [www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org](http://www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org) and click on the survey on the homepage or click on "surveys" at the top of the webpage. This will be open to all community members and registration to *Be Heard Harrisonburg* is not necessarily required but is recommended for future engagement opportunities through this site.

Additional information about the city's current budget and other financial documents is available at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/budget](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/budget).

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**The Budget Timeline**

**November**

Budget kick-off

**November – January**

Departments develop initial budget proposals

Council engages in budget conversations with the community

Survey is posted to [www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org](http://www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org)

**January**

Outside agency requests due

Develop preliminary budget projections

**February**

Meet with directors

Update revenue projections

**March**

Draft budget is presented to City Council

**April**

Public hearing and first reading of budget

**May**

Second reading and adoption of budget

**July 1**

Newly adopted budget begins

*We want to hear from **YOU!** Do you have a new idea for Harrisonburg? Let us and other members of the community know what that idea is. Participate in a discussion, support other ideas, and give feedback on community projects. This is YOUR chance to **Be Heard Harrisonburg** by visiting [www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org](http://www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org).*



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