

REDESIGNING THE CITY BUDGET WEBSITE IN QUINCY, MA



METROBRIDGE



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report presents work completed by a team of students in an Emerging Media Studies course (User-Producers 2.0: Developing Interactivity) instructed by Boston University Assistant Professor Lei Guo. The information was compiled by Emily Robbins, MetroBridge Program Manager and Associate Professor David Glick, MetroBridge Faculty Director. The report was designed by Fatima Blanca Munoz, Program Manager at the Initiative on Cities.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The MetroBridge program at Boston University's Initiative on Cities wishes to thank the City of Quincy, particularly Director of Business and Government Relations Maureen Geary and Chief Analyst Eric Mason, for their partnership on this project.

ABOUT BU METROBRIDGE

MetroBridge empowers students across Boston University to tackle urban issues, and at the same time, helps city leaders confront key challenges. MetroBridge connects with local governments to understand their priorities, and then collaborates with Boston University faculty to translate each city's unique needs into course projects. Students in undergraduate and graduate classes engage in city projects as class assignments while working directly with local government leaders during the semester. The goal of MetroBridge is to mutually benefit both the Boston University community and local governments by expanding access to experiential learning and by providing tailored support to under-resourced cities. MetroBridge is funded by the College of Arts and Sciences and housed at Boston University's Initiative on Cities.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Emerging Media Studies student team assisted the City of Quincy by redesigning (via prototype) an easier-to-read and more user-friendly budget website. According to key staff in the City of Quincy, the budget website is one of the most frequently viewed sub-pages in the city government website. However, the style, content, functionality of the current site makes it difficult for residents to find information (see Appendix A).

The scope of the website redesign aims to:

- Highlight key financial information
- Create search functionality
- Update budget information seasonally or quarterly
- Provide a financial news section for residents

The following design standards were developed for the prototype website:

Design Rules

Color Scheme

Main color
#0f3da8

Complementary color
#3652ee
#8bbfe1
#8acd76

Data Visualization

Infogram
Design Requirement
Infogram

Fonts

Headers:
Merriweatehr

Paragraphs:
Roboto

The sky was cloudless and of a deep dark blue.

All their equipment and instruments are alive.

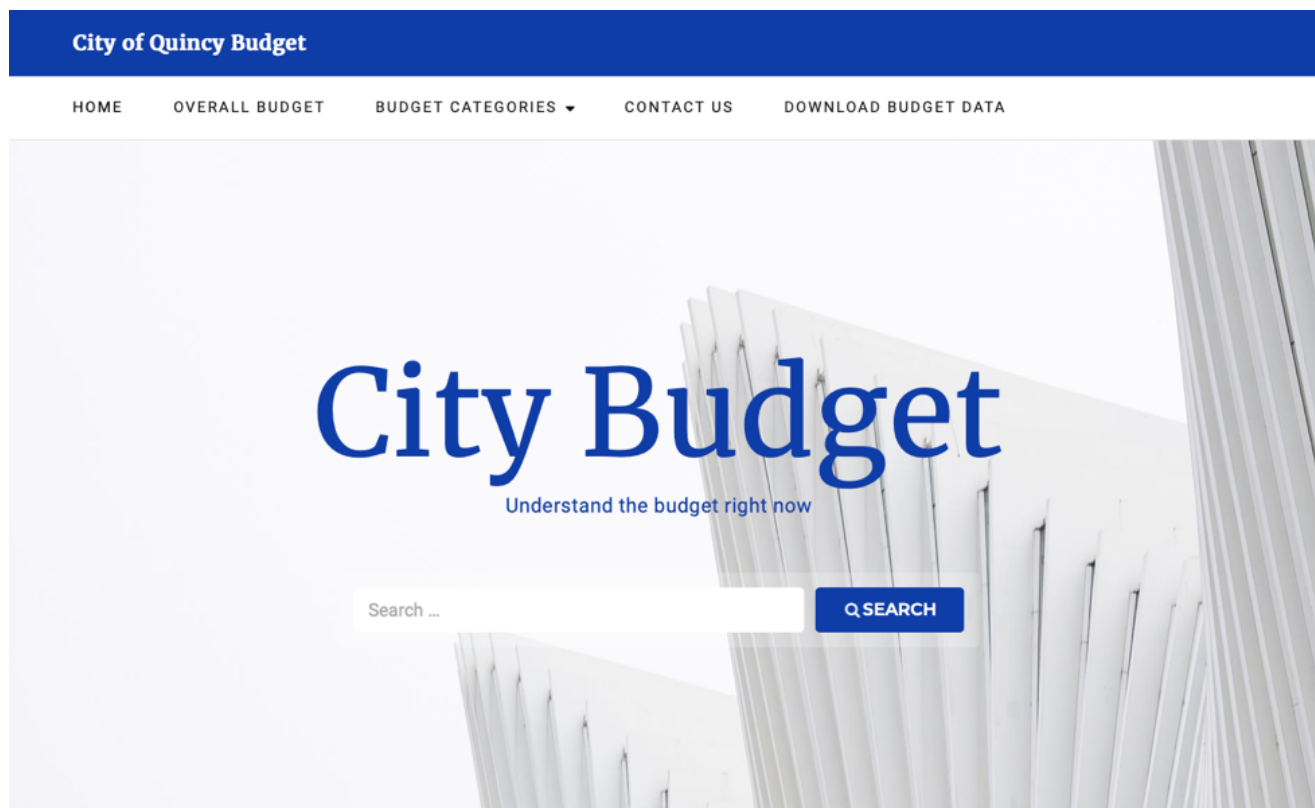
Education

Year	Budget
2017 budget	\$987,480,22
2018 budget	\$1,016,569,51
2019 budget	\$1,048,569,51

BUDGET DESIGN PROTOTYPE


The following are screenshots of the website prototype developed by the student team. The full site is available at: <http://2019.philemerge.com/project2/>.

HOMEPAGE




Budget Categories


This overview section provides information on what percentage of the entire budget those categories make up, with education, employee benefits and public safety being the largest.



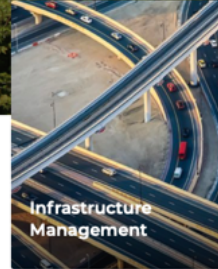
Administration and Finance




Public Safety



Education
Improves the quality of education for Quincy residents, especially the public school system.



Infrastructure Management



Administration and Finance



Public Safety



Education



Infrastructure Management

Seasonal Budget Key Number



310
M Budget Proposal 2019



3
Percent increase over 2019



3
New department added



4
Primary sources of projected revenue

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Overall Budget

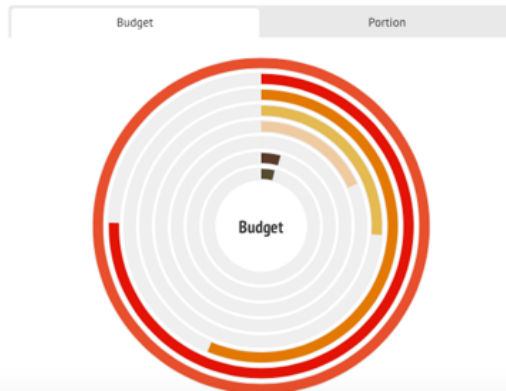
The City of Quincy annual budget is the formal document that directs municipal spending from the beginning of the fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on the following June 30.

This page gives a glance at the overall budget information, and evoke more explorations of a clear, concise and accessible view of municipal spending.

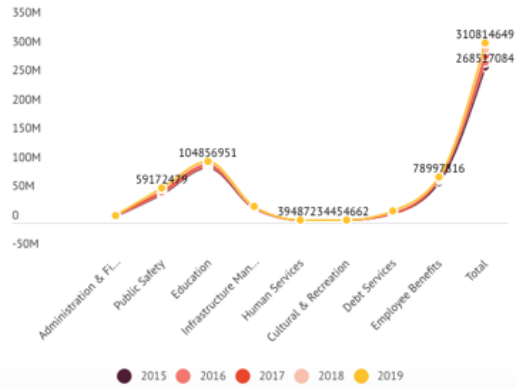
Check detailed budget information by categories and departments of Quincy

[Click here >>](#)

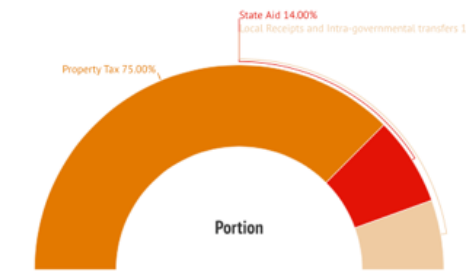
Budget Overview



Budget trend from 2015 to 2019



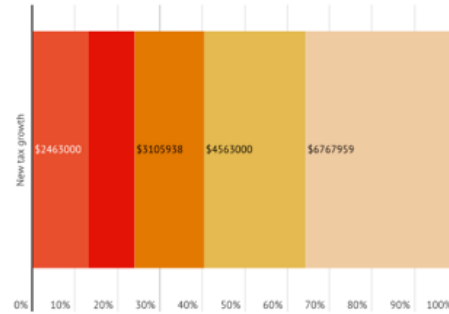
Projected revenue portion



[Download data](#)

Share

New tax growth



[Download data](#)

Share

3 primary sources of projected revenue in the fiscal year 2019:

- Property Taxes
- State Aid
- Local Receipts and Intra-governmental transfers

In the last five years, more than \$20 million in tax revenue has been added through new growth, allowing the City to maintain stable increases to its overall levy.

BUDGET CATEGORIES

City of Quincy Budget

[HOME](#) [OVERALL BUDGET](#) [BUDGET CATEGORIES](#) ▾ [CONTACT US](#) [DOWNLOAD BUDGET DATA](#)

[Home](#) > [Budget Categories](#)

Budget Categories



DEPARTMENTAL SUB-PAGES

Administration and Finance

▲ Mayor

The Mayor is the City's Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for authorizing all expenditures, hiring of all employees, and negotiating all City contracts. The Office of the Mayor is responsible for oversight of all City departments, manages the City's day-to-day operations, and coordinates all requests through the Constituent Services program, which includes both electronic and phone requests for a wide range of City services. Eight positions are funded in the Mayor's office. These include: the Mayor; his Executive Secretary (chief of staff); an administrative assistant; an executive assistant; two constituent service coordinators; the Director of Operations; and the Director of Policy and Information.

▶ Legal

▶ Court Judgements

▶ Human Resources

▶ Information Technology

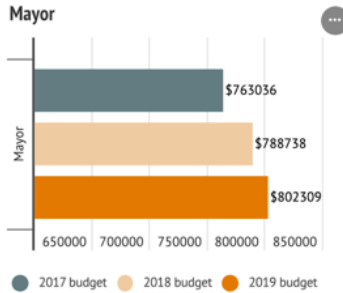
▶ City Clerk

▶ Elections

▶ Licensing Board

▶ Census

▶ Planning



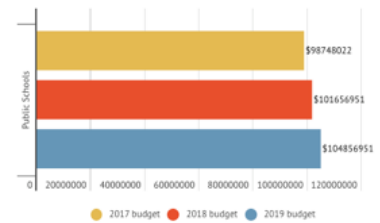
Education

▲ Public School

Public education is strongly supported in Quincy for its all-important role in both the development of individuals as citizens and as productive members of the local and regional economy. Quincy Public Schools possesses a long-standing tradition for innovative curriculum and excellence in public education.

Quincy Public Schools is comprised of 11 elementary schools, five middle schools, two high schools, an early childhood center and a comprehensive extended and continuing education program.

Education

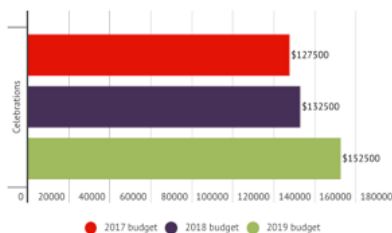


Culture and Recreation

▲ Celebrations

The Celebrations account pays for various community events, including Flag Day, the annual Christmas Festival and Parade events, the Lunar New Year Festival, as well as holiday and seasonal decorations.

Celebrations



Download data

Show

Infogram

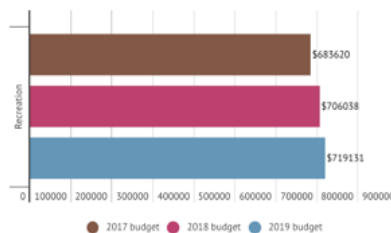
Column Chart Infogram

Furnace Brook Golf

▲ Recreation

The Recreation Department leads, organizes and conducts outdoor and indoor leisure activities at parks, playgrounds schools and other facilities across the City. The Recreation Department promotes and organizes citywide programs, activities, and events for Quincy residents, often collaborating with other recreation providers. The Recreation Department also serves as a provider of recreation materials for the benefit of Quincy residents and organizations. Leisure activities in the Recreation Department help promote the physical health and social development of participants through exposure to high ideals and standards of fair play. Such opportunities contribute in a meaningful way to the quality of life in our community.

Recreation



Download data

BUDGET DATA

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BUDGET DATA 2010 - 2019



Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

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Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

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Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

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Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

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Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

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APPENDIX A: CURRENT CITY OF QUINCY BUDGET WEBSITE

