

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

Jacksonville,
Florida
2021-2022



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THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

**JACKSONVILLE
COMMUNITY ACTION
COMMITTEE**

JCAC WEBSITE :
[HTTPS://JAKTAKESACTION.ORG/](https://jaktakesaction.org/)



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY AND WHAT REINVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY COULD LOOK LIKE

How could we reinvest into our communities if we decrease JSO's share of the city budget by half?

The JCAC believes the best way to tackle social issues in our city is by prioritizing our most historically neglected areas through direct investment. We know that increased policing does not keep our community safe, however, increased opportunity, development, livable wages, and increased public services provide the stability needed for Jacksonville to flourish.

Increased spending on JSO means more divestment from our communities. We must assure that the 2021-2022 City of Jacksonville budget prioritizes community first. A People's Budget is a true economic stimulus for the Northside, Eastside, and other underdeveloped areas.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is requesting an additional \$29.2 million increase to their existing portion of the budget. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office received \$481,594,597 FY 2019-2020, and an additional \$300 million in 2020-2021, totaling at around 40% of the city's budget.



BUDGET PROCESS

How does the budget process work?

First, city departments and independent authorities submit budget requests to the city's Budget Division. After the departments and authorities work with the Budget staff on each plan, the proposals are formally presented to the Mayor's Budget Review Committee (MBRC). Next, the mayor, working with the MBRC, drafts the final budget and presents it to the City Council. The mayor must submit the annual budget proposal for the general government to the Council by filing a copy with Legislative Services no later than July 15, unless the Council by resolution establishes another date. The budget is then referred to the Council's Finance Committee, which conducts hearings on the proposed budget. Department heads, division chiefs and independent authority representatives discuss their plans with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, working with the Council Auditor and staff, may amend the proposed budget prior to its review before the full City Council. The City Council holds two public hearings on the proposed Budget, as amended, before its adoption. Residents are invited to share their input with the Council during the Finance Committee and full Council meetings. The final budget must be approved by the full Council prior to October 1, the first day of the city's fiscal year. Typically, the City Council votes on the budget during its last Council meeting in September, which falls on the fourth Tuesday of every September.



BUDGET TIMELINE



JANUARY

Departments submit Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) forms with priority rankings

FEBURARY

CIP submissions are reviewed and prioritized.

MARCH

Information Technology Plan (ITP) Committee prepares priority list of IT projects.

Departments prepare and submit departmental budget requests to the Budget Office.

APRIL

CIP and ITP are reviewed and recommended by MBRC.

Departmental Budget review meetings are held with the Budget Office.

MAY

The Mayor's Budget Review Committee reviews departmental budgets.

JUNE

The Mayor reviews MBRC approved budget and makes final budget decisions.

BUDGET TIMELINE



JULY

Certifications of Taxable Value are received from the Property Appraiser.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget is presented to the City Council.
July 20th, at 9AM

AUGUST

The mayor and City Council members hold community budget meetings throughout the city to garner citizen input. City Council adopts proposed millage for Truth in Millage(T.R.I.M.) notice.

The Council Finance Committee and other standing committees review the Proposed Budget.

SEPTEMBER

Two public hearings are held on both the proposed millage and the proposed budget at regular City Council meetings. After the final public hearing, the Millage Levy Ordinance and the Budget Ordinance, as amended, are adopted by the City Council. Both ordinances are then signed by the Mayor

- DATE: TBD

OCTOBER

New fiscal year begins

REALLOCATION & REINVESTMENT

FIGURE 1.

Mayor Lenny Curry's 2020-2021
FY budget for the City of
Jacksonville by top ten
departments

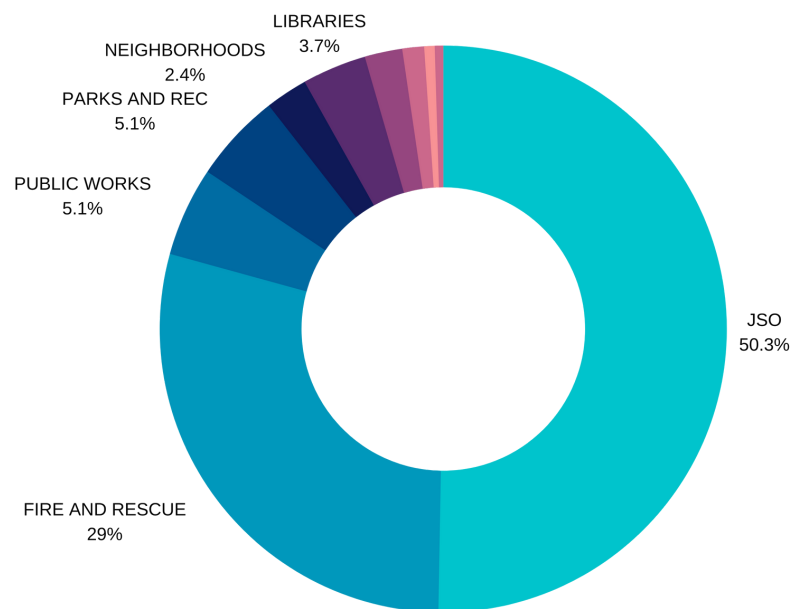
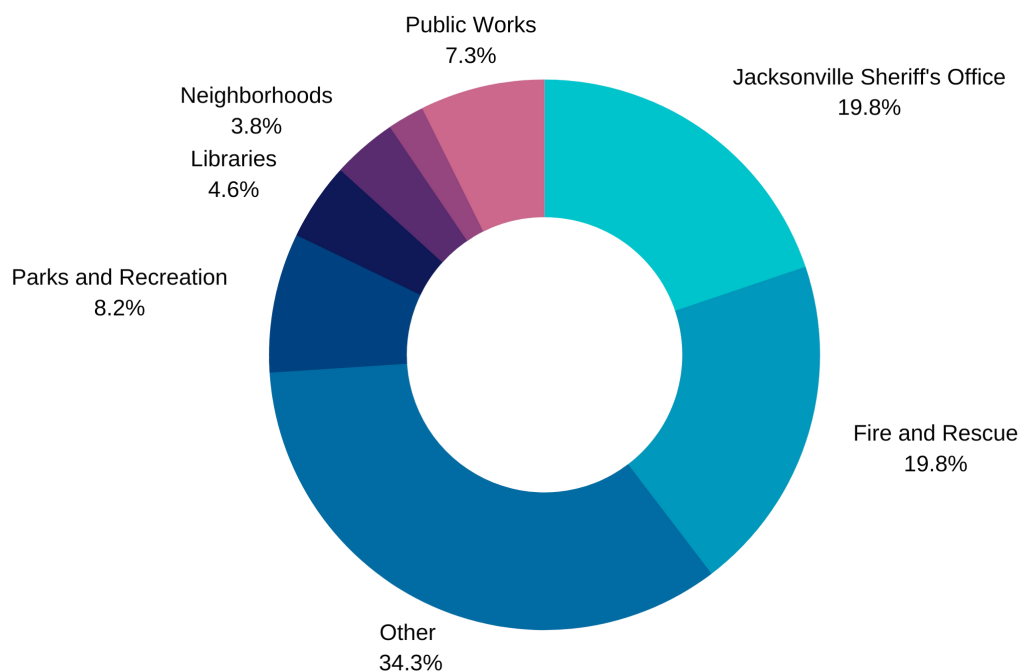


FIGURE 2.

The Peoples Budget proposed for
2021-2022 FY budget for the City
of Jacksonville



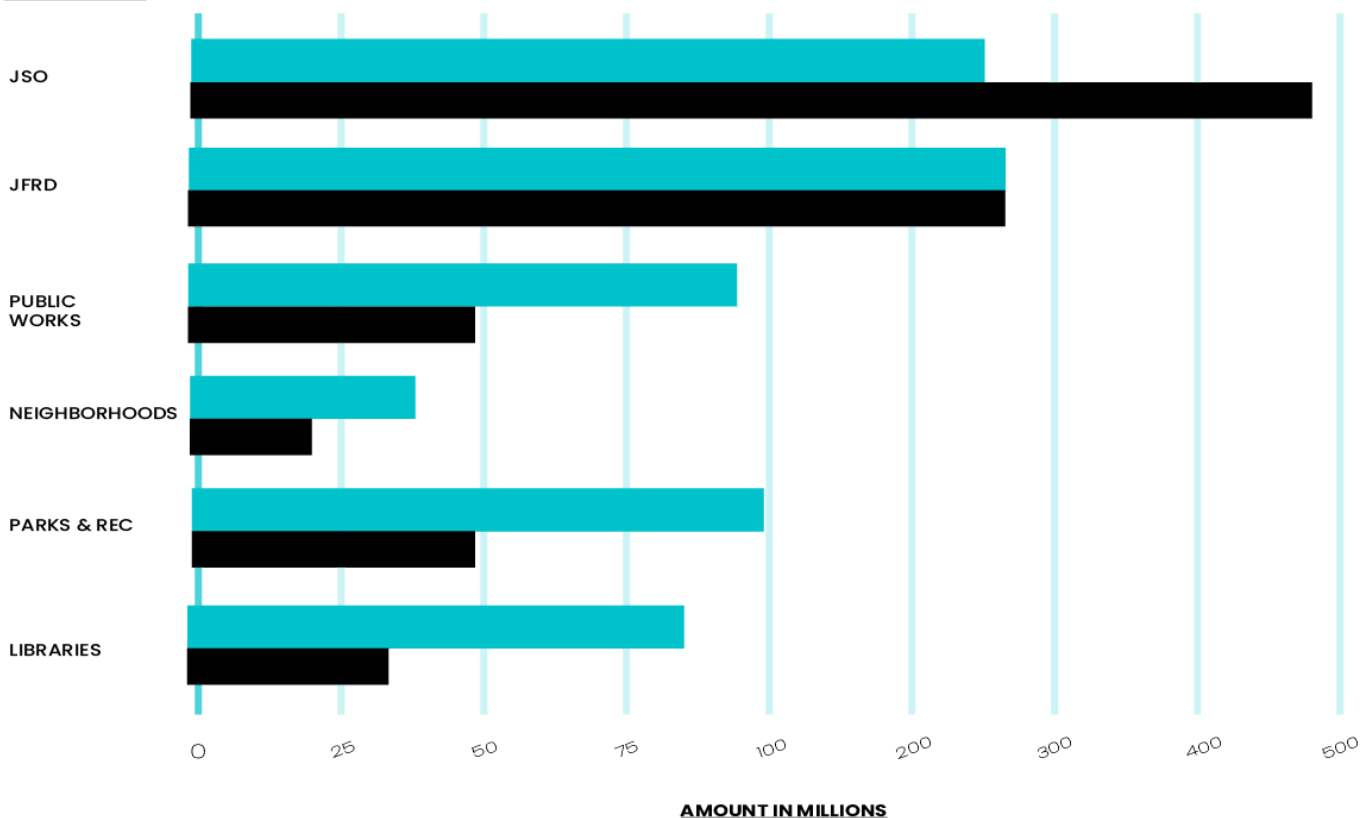
REALLOCATION & REINVESTMENT

PEOPLE'S BUDGET VS. MAYORS BUDGET

PEOPLE'S BUDGET
21'-22'

MAYORS APPROVED
20'-21'

DEPARTMENTS



REALLOCATION & REINVESTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Stronger neighborhoods means stronger communities. More funding to the Neighborhoods department - which holds the Housing and Community Development Division, and is responsible for our city's affordable housing initiatives - would be a great investment in our city's future. This could be accomplished through a **23 million** dollar funding increase - funding in 2020 was 24 million. This reallocation would also mean an increased contribution from the city into HUD and other public housing, which provides stability to community members that otherwise have little support options available.

OTHER FUNDING

Parks, Recreation and Services - **50.5 million increase**

- We recommend the City install lighting in all parks, as well reinstate/rehire full-time Park Managers who can provide adult supervision and activities designed to protect, promote, and provide safety to our youth.
- Create a Homelessness Elimination Initiative Program
- Spend **15.5 million** on the creation of brand new homeless shelters in order to reduce overcrowding in existing shelters, as well as raise wages for case managers. This will help revitalize the downtown area and attract more business.
- **15 million** dollar increase for the division of mental health services to improve access to quality mental health service for the people of Jacksonville.

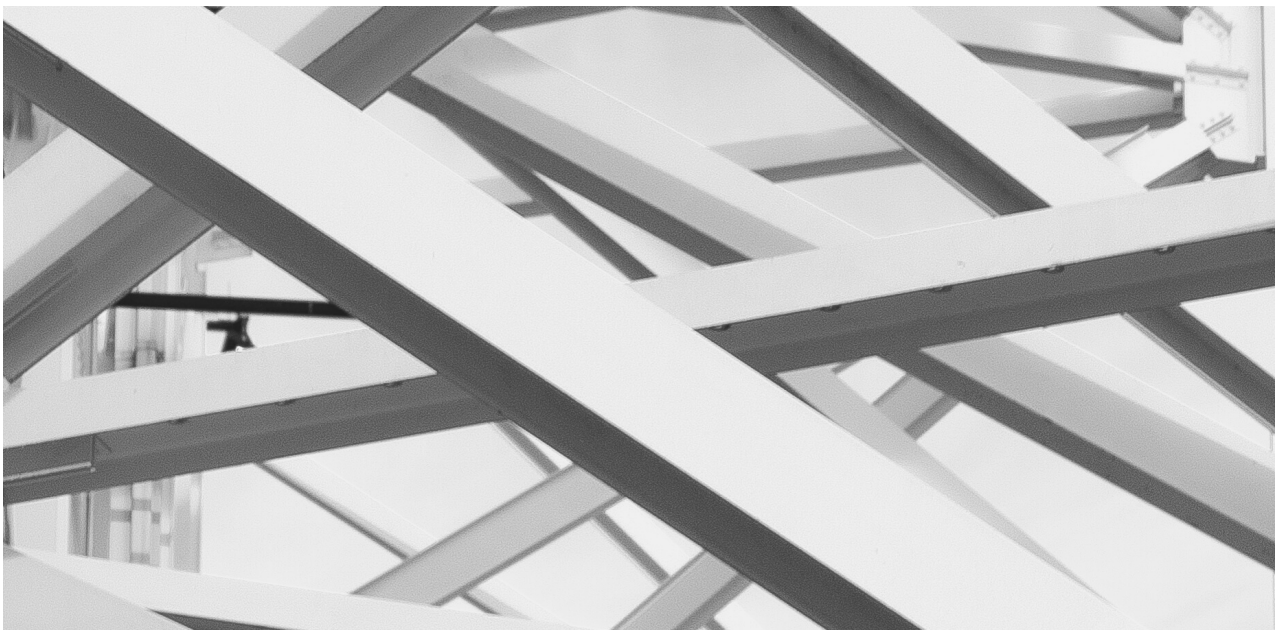
REALLOCATION & REINVESTMENT

OTHER FUNDING CONTINUED

Public Libraries for additional staff and activities- 20 million increase - funding in 2020 was around 35 million total.

A stronger public transportation system means a stronger city. A 20 million increase in city funding to the Jacksonville Transit Authority for revolutionizing and expanding public transportation would benefit all of Jacksonville, especially the working class of this city. This would be a funding increase on top of the existing new revenue from the passage of the increase to the gas tax passed by City Council in 2021

More funding to the Kids Hope Alliance, Girls Inc. and other youth programs - 20 million increase.



PEOPLE'S LEGISLATION FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



COMMUNITY CONTROL OF THE POLICE

The City Council should direct City of Jacksonville lobbyists, as well as work with the Duval State legislative delegation to carve-out an amendment to Florida Statute 112.532, to allow counties to adopt ordinances for the creation of an all civilian-all elected police accountability council tasked with investigating complaints and allegations of police misconduct. This police accountability council would have subpoena power, the authority to rewrite JSO hiring practices, the ability to approve policies and procedures, and the power to fire officers found guilty of misconduct. As well, this police accountability council would approve/disapprove JSO's budget yearly.

We currently support the efforts proposed by Councilman Garrett Dennis to create a Civilian Review Board; this is a necessary first step towards police accountability.



CREATION OF THE URBAN CORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

From the recommendation of the Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission, we support the creation of an Urban Core Development Authority to implement a master plan and coordinate public and private resources to address poverty, socioeconomic and other disparities within the designated area. This Authority board would be chosen by the District representatives of that area, not the Mayor. - Budget would be 1.5 million, the same as that of the Downtown Investment Authority



STRENGTHENING ORGANIZED LABOR

Implementation of a union neutrality ordinance for all private contractors getting city contracts, meaning employers must not interfere with workers who work for firms and non profits that get city contracts who wish to collectively bargain.

PEOPLE'S LEGISLATION FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



EMPOWER BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES AND FIRMS

We demand the City of Jacksonville stop the barriers on all City, State, and Federal contracts that are granted to the exclusion of Black African American owned Businesses, Contractors and Vendors. The amount of city contracts going to black owned firms, non profits and vendors should reflect the city demographics.



DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA AND OTHER VICTIMLESS OFFENSES

This reduces Jacksonville's mass incarceration issue, in which JSO arrested 4% of the entire city population in 2018. Doing so will save taxpayer money for economic stimulus measures and insure that JSO's focus is on solving homicides and sexual assaults - not petty drug busts



KEEP THE RENT AFFORDABLE

Implementation of rent control legislation for housing in and around the urban core so redevelopment efforts do not force residents to leave their neighborhoods.

PEOPLE'S LEGISLATION FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

EQUITABLE METHODS TO RAISE REVENUE



As a means of raising total revenue, instead of an increased gas tax, sales tax or other regressive taxes on community members, we are proposing a millage rate increase on commercial properties valued at \$1.5 million or higher. Additionally, historically neglected neighborhoods designated as economic opportunity zones would qualify for a millage rate freeze to incentivize development in those areas. This must also be accompanied by strong rent control legislation to protect residents of these areas as business expands, as well as legislation prioritizing a 1 to 1 ratio of black/minority contractors to non black/minority contractors so residents can have the opportunity to serve their own community *before* outside developers are considered for publicly funded projects.



INVESTIGATION INTO JSO MISCONDUCT AROUND THE GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTS

The City of Jacksonville paid out over \$100,000 to peaceful protestors in August 2020 following JSO misconduct and false arrests amidst the George Floyd protests. We are calling for a city council investigation, initiated by the incoming City Council President, regarding the violent response from JSO following the civil unrest.



PROTECT THE COMMUNITY FROM COVID-19

Many in our community are still suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are calling for unused CARES ACT funds, not spent by the City, to be distributed towards direct assistance to the unemployed and underserved of Jacksonville, not towards benefiting JSO's artificially inflated overtime budget. ARP funds must all be distributed in an equitable way to assist those communities who need it.



Photography - Joseph Baxley