

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN MISSISSAUGA ^{7.1} **CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Presented by: Samer Fawzi Alghoul

Political/Economic Think Tank

PMI Artificial Intelligence Certificates
PMI Certified PMP

Director, 9875336 Canada Inc. (est. 2016)

WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

- A democratic process where residents help decide how part of the public budget is spent
- Gives citizens real influence over real money
- Strengthens transparency, accountability, and civic trust
- Used in thousands of cities worldwide
- Encourages shared responsibility for community development

WHY PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MATTERS

- Ensures public funds reflect community priorities
- Builds long-term civic engagement
- Improves equity by including diverse voices
- Helps governments design more effective programs
- Creates a sense of ownership and partnership between residents and the city

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

- For Residents or City Proposed Projects
 - **Idea collection**
 - **Proposal development**
 - **Public discussion and deliberation**
 - **Community vote to choose projects**

REACHING OUT TO PUBLIC

- Encourage ideas
- Turn a good idea into a proposal/deputation
- Approve the proposal and implement it
- Generate a list of contributors

PUBLIC MOTIVATION AND INVOLVEMENT

- Motivation for project success and recognition:
 - **Certificates/Awards**
 - **Council highlights**
 - **Keep a record: Citizen/Resident Name, Project #**
- **Examples:**
 - **Citizen Contributor Award for PB**
 - **Rewards, e.g. gift cards or prizes**
 - **Citizen Contributors' List - Website**

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Aligns public funds with real community needs
- Uses local knowledge and lived experience
- Prioritizes projects that matter most to residents

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & REAL COMMUNITY NEEDS (I)

- City Indoor Play Place Playground Proposed Location
- 350 Rathburn Rd W Playground near 350 Rathburn Rd W Corpus Elementary:
 - Could be a “Yes or No” during planning
 - If yes, allocate funds
 - Believe in local knowledge and utilize it
 - PB is about changing budget priorities and direction

MISSISSAUGA'S CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Annual Budget Committee consultations where residents can comment on the budget
- Public budget meetings, livestreams, and email submissions for feedback
- City signage and public notices encouraging residents to vote or provide input
- #SaugaBudget social media engagement
- Transparent access to budget documents and financial reports

STRONG PERFORMANCE ON PB READINESS INDICATORS

- High transparency: open budget, livestreams, public reports
- Multiple engagement channels: social media, email, public notices
- Accessible budget information: detailed reports, open data
- Strong consultation culture: annual consultations, ward meetings

DEMONSTRATING STRONG TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC ACCESS

- Faster access to budget documents
- Clear communication channels
- Consistent livestreaming and archived meetings
- Strong culture of open financial reporting

WHY TRANSPARENCY MATTERS FOR PB

- Builds public trust
- Enables informed participation
- Supports faster implementation
- Positions Mississauga as a leading transparent city

CONCLUSION

- Mississauga already has a strong foundation for participatory budgeting
- Demonstrates transparency and openness through multiple engagement channels
- Enhancements can position the city as a leader in democratic innovation
- An engaged community leads to better outcomes for everyone