



HOLLY J. MITCHELL

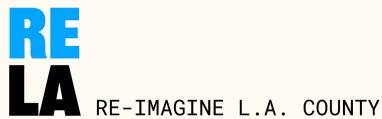
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR ♦ 2ND DISTRICT

COMMUNITY BUDGET

**LET'S IMPROVE
OUR COMMUNITY!**



**DECISION
GUIDEBOOK**



INTRODUCTION

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking initiative brought forth by the Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, in collaboration with the Participatory Budgeting Project, Reimagine LA Coalition, and Tres Lunas Consulting.

For the first time ever, a Supervisor for Los Angeles County is pioneering Participatory Budgeting, allocating \$1,000,000 of discretionary funding to the Ladera Heights and Florence-Firestone communities - \$500,000 for each. This marks the largest discretionary funding allocation in Supervisor Mitchell's tenure. In this innovative approach, community members will democratically decide how these funds are utilized through Participatory Budgeting. Through this inclusive process, residents will submit ideas and vote on projects, empowering individuals to shape the future of their neighborhoods.

The collaboration of 11 advisory committee members from Ladera Heights and Florence-Firestone has been instrumental in co-creating an inclusive process, enhancing community decision-making, and fostering stronger, more resilient communities within the Second Supervisorial District (SD2). The success of the pilot will allow us to expand the Participatory Budgeting countywide.

**Follow the process and stay connected
at the Community Budget website:**

<https://mitchell.lacounty.gov/cb-2023>

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

1. Practice Mutual Respect for each other's (ideas, experiences, feelings)

- a. Actively listen
- b. Seek to understand before being understood
- c. Communicate respectfully
- d. Be Truthful/Be honest

2. Assume Best Intentions

- a. Foster an environment of empathy and openness.
- b. Try not to make assumptions about others' intentions

3. Equity & Inclusion

- a. Create a comfortable space where everyone feels supported and empowered to contribute, regardless of their background, identity, or experiences
- b. recognize the value of diverse perspectives

4. Continuous Learning

- a. Be open to growth and evolving perspectives.
- b. Lean into curiosity

5. Conflict Resolution

- a. Engage in constructive dialogue
- b. Seek common ground and understanding.

6. Accountability

- a. Collectively upholding these agreements and creating a positive community environment.
- b. Step Up/Step Back

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

Equity

Strive towards ensuring community voices that are not at the table (i.e. students, neighbors, the unhoused, etc.) are grounding our work by mindfully and intentionally including our different experiences, differences, and similarities to serve the goals of this program. Create equity through inclusion and diversity in order to create a sense of community, trust and fairness for the whole community. Remember that there is no equality without equity and being equitable allows us to strive for justice.

Justice

Lean into restorative solutions that foster a common ground and bring us closer to fostering a thriving, resilient community that creates additional opportunities to heal, care and prioritize those most in need. Challenge ingrained systems while acknowledging facts and laws in order to make decisions that invest in wellness, workforce opportunities for young people, education, training, reducing harm/death, and not incarceration and punishment.

Poverty Alleviation

Help imagine and develop processes that lessen economic challenges and poverty, and invest in economic resiliency by uncovering resources and opportunities that allow for self-determination, the ability to financially succeed and meeting residents' needs with reliable resources. Ensure that community outreach and accountability of people in power supports this process.

GOALS

Project Overview

The Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchel Launched its first participatory budget (PB) pilot program in the 2nd District in late 2023, allocating a total of \$1 million dollars to the Florence-Firestone and Ladera Heights communities. The Supervisor's Office has partnered with the Reimagine Los Angeles (ReLA) coalition and the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) to implement the pilot. This pilot will invite community members to directly influence and decide how a public budget (or in this case a portion of the Second Supervisorial District's budget) will be allocated.

PB is an approach to public engagement that puts real decision-making power over real money directly into the hands of residents. With community leadership and engaging outreach events, PB offers community members the opportunity to determine how to spend County budget dollars to create changes that they want to see in their neighborhood.

GOALS

Project Overview

The Participatory Budgeting Pilot has three primary objectives. The first and second objective relate to the implementation of the pilot. The third objective relates to the dissemination of findings from the pilot.

Objective 1:

Increase the capacity of the Re-Imagine LA Coalition to support the implementation of a Participatory Budgeting Pilot Program

Objective 2

Increase civically active community members by implementing the participatory budgeting process through culturally competent and linguistically accessible in-person and virtual engagement opportunities to fund community-decided programs that are equitable and effective.

Objective 3

Build improved relationships between SD2 and community members and assess the participatory budgeting process; disseminate findings, lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations to be shared with stakeholders on the extent to which PB can be scaled.

PRIORITY AREAS

The aim for these priority areas is to establish purposeful programs and service initiatives that effectively tackle community needs by using creative and innovative approaches. The following priority areas were identified by the Advisory Committee.

Green and Safe Infrastructure

Investing in developing environmentally sustainable infrastructure, including but is not limited to renewable energy, green spaces, and infrastructure improvements that enhance community safety

Housing & Homelessness

Investments aimed at addressing housing affordability, homelessness prevention, and supportive services for those experiencing homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness

Economic Opportunities

Funding initiatives crafted to stimulate the local economy - job creation, workforce development, business development, small business support

Traffic and Transportation

Investing in transportation and infrastructure improvements, including but not limited to traffic management, traffic safety, and promoting other methods of transportation besides private vehicles (e.g., bikes and public transit)

Mobile, Public, and Accessible Resources

Funding projects and resources that equitably increase overall access to essential services and delivery of those services to residents who have historically lacked access

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

Idea Collection

Persons of any age who live and/or work in Florence-Firestone or Ladera Heights can share their ideas.

Vote

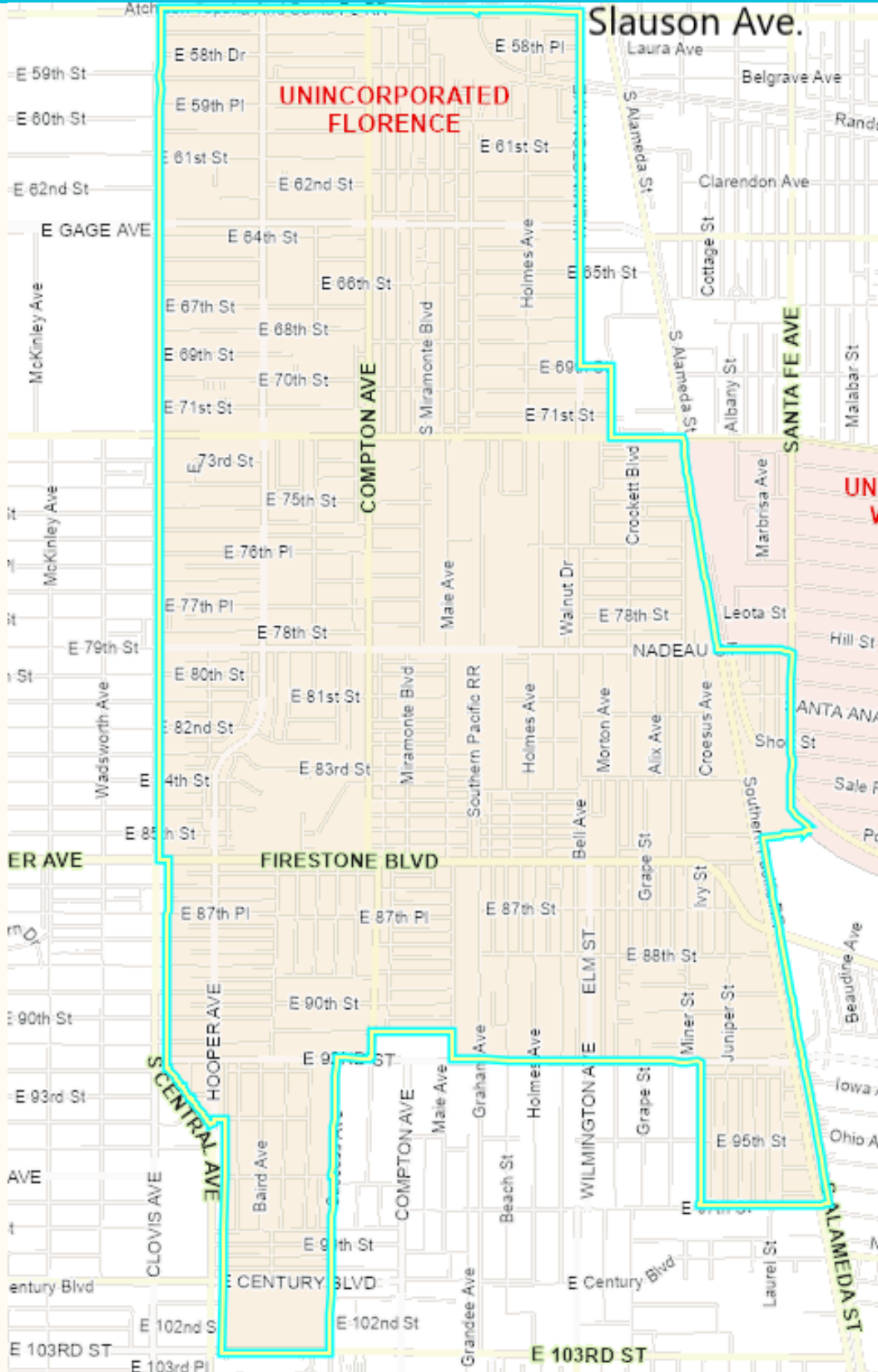
Only 16 years or older individuals who live in Florence-Firestone or Ladera Heights will be able to vote. Verification of residency requested but not required.

Tool to Check your Address

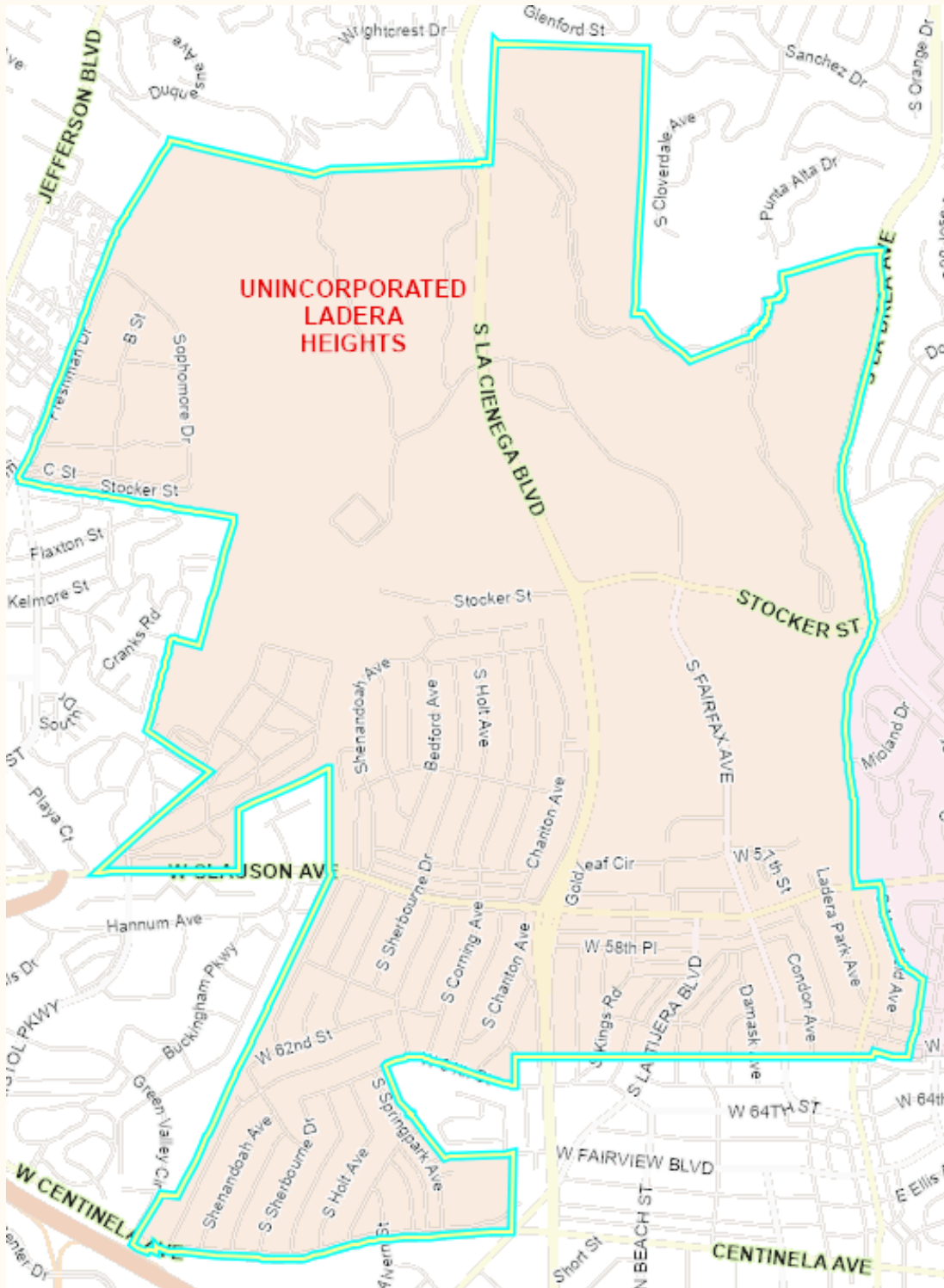
<https://www.lavote.gov/apps/precinctsmaps>

1. Enter the address number and street name of your place of work or residence. Or the nearest address to the intersection you reside in.
2. The tool may give you a few options. Be sure to check your ZIP code.
3. This tool shows you all of the jurisdictions that represent you. Go down a few lines, you should see “Second Supervisorial District,” and a few lines below that, you should see “Unincorporated Ladera Heights” or “Unincorporated Florence.”
4. If you see Ladera Heights or Florence-Firestone listed as unincorporated, congratulations, you qualify to submit your idea!

FLORENCE-FIRESTONE MAP



LADERA HEIGHTS MAP



PROJECT PARAMETERS

This is a one-time funding source; therefore, projects cannot add personnel costs to existing departments (i.e. the Sheriff's Dept., the Public Health Dept.)

Programs need to be in alignment with the County's "Community First/Care First" models.

- The County is committed to investing in our most marginalized residents and communities, prioritizing care, services, and opportunities over incarceration for those who have long suffered from the injustices of a flawed legal system rooted in racial and economic disparities.

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Step 1

Advisory Committee (AC) reviews ideas and identifies project ideas to develop into proposals

Step 2

AC develops the proposals that are placed on the ballot with Community Based Organization (CBO) feedback (1-2 sessions) to ensure they are responsive to CBO capacity and resources

Step 3

Participatory grantmaking process to determine which CBOs will implement winning projects

VOTING SYSTEM

TBD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

After reviewing both initial applications and engagement plans from finalists, the Advisory Committees for the two areas elected to offer Community Engagement Partnership opportunities to the following organizations:

Ladera Heights

- Young Realist Division of Los Angeles
- Ladera Heights Civic Association

Florence Firestone

- Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corporation
- Florence Firestone Community Organization

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the advisory committee members for generously dedicating their time and expertise to co-create both this guidebook. Their invaluable contributions have been instrumental in shaping our shared vision.

Ladera Heights

- Braelyn Baker
- Ellen DeLeston
- Garrick Galbreath
- James Chitty
- Lisa Flenoury

Florence Firestone

- Alina Ambriz
- Ashley Orona
- Ilena Reynoso
- Maria Jose Vides
- Martha Escobedo
- Wendy Ponce

TIMELINE

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- Advisory Committee Application Opens**
November - December 2023
 - Advisory Committee Selected**
December 2023
 - Design Process with Advisory Committee**
January - March 2024
 - Idea Collection**
April 15 - June 15, 2024
 - Proposal Development**
June - September 2024
 - Vote**
October 2024
 - Implementation**
November - January 2025



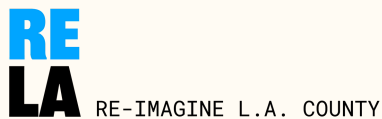
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COMMUNITY BUDGET

LADERA HEIGHTS & FLORENCE-FIRESTONE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



f @Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell

X @HollyJMitchell

www Mitchell.LACounty.Gov