

DC's Budget & Working With Your ANC for Safe Streets

DC Advocate Training & Workshop - March 20, 2023



A few logistics & Introductions

- This session is being recorded
- Find your reactions, chat, and mute controls
- Introduce yourself: Share your first name, neighborhood, and ANC (if you know it)
- Please mute your audio when not talking
- Have a question? Drop it in the chat or hold it to the end
- Have a comment? Please share in the chat

Tonight's Agenda

The DC Budget

- Timelines
- Digging into the Budget
- Weighing In & Hearings
- Tips for Testimony

Working with your ANC for Safe Streets

- How they work
- Effective Contact
- Working Together

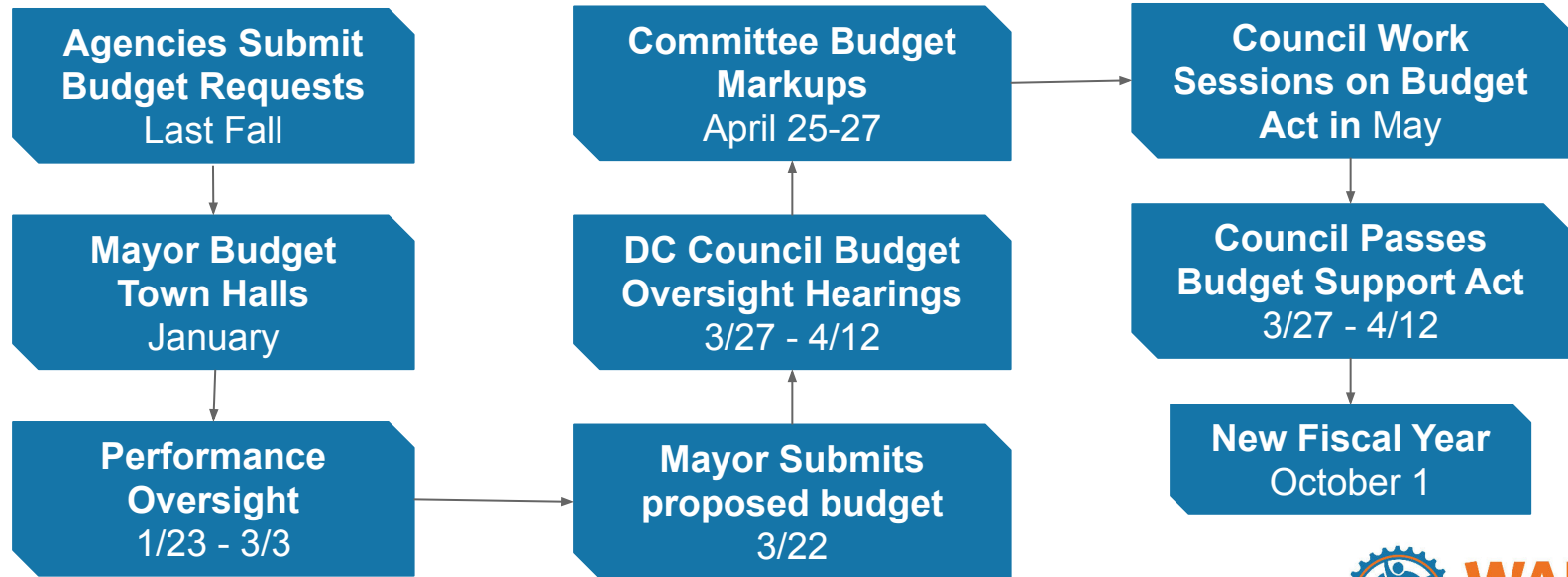


The DC Budget

- Runs by Fiscal Year: October 1 - September 30
- Balances income and spending for agencies, programs, projects and staffing
- FY23 Budget was \$19.989 Billion
- **Is legislation:** Codified in the Budget Support Act passed by DC Council & Signed by Mayor
- **Is a statement of priorities:** should reflect community needs & goals



Budget Timeline



More detail at dccouncilbudget.com/schedules

Unpacking the Budget

Operating

- Volumes 2-4
- **Covers one year**
- Includes most agency staffing, programs, services

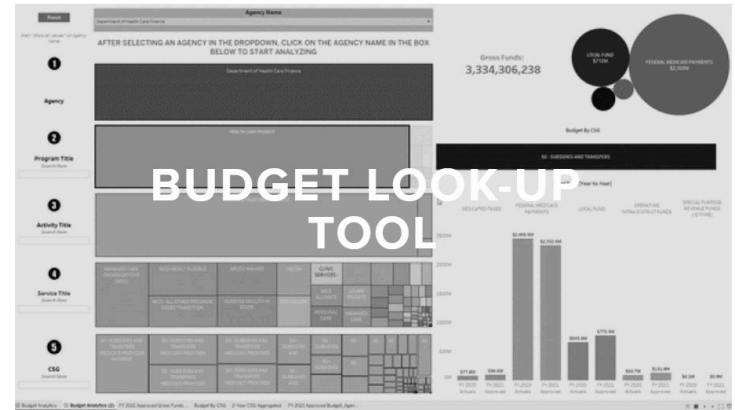
Capital

- Volume 5 Capital Improvements Plan
- **Covers 5 years**
- Includes major construction, building, rehabilitation and long-term maintenance
- timelines for multi-year projects

Helpful Tools & Links

- DC Council Budget Director Website
dccouncilbudget.com
- DC Council Budget Lookup Tool
dccouncilbudget.com/dashboards
- Past and Current Budgets
cfo.dc.gov/budget

Can't find something? It's not you...



DC Council Budget Hearings

An opportunity to:

- Hear an overview of the agency budget
- Focus the committee on your priority
- Argue for cuts, additions or a change in project timeline/scope
- Defend a priority

Some notable hearings for Safe Streets Issues

- COW budget briefing - 3/24
- DMV - March 28
- DFHV - March 28
- DPW - March 29
- DDOT - March 30



Full schedule at dccouncilbudget.com/schedules

Budget Testimony

Sign up to testify OR submit written testimony

Spoken: 3 minutes on Zoom, must sign up with committee

Written: Any length, but shorter is best

Tips for effective testimony

- Start by introducing yourself & where you live
- Make a clear ask & state your priorities
- Make it personal - share your story
- You do not need to be an expert



More Tips for Effective Testimony

Begin by addressing the Chair and committee, then share your full name and where you live (eg. Good afternoon Chairperson Cheh and Members of the Committee, My name is Garrett Hennigan and I live in the Brookland neighborhood in Ward 5).

Start and end stating your position or main point (eg. I am here today to remind the Council why a safe Connecticut Ave with a protected bike lane is important to my community).

Try to cover just a few ideas well. Focus your time on those.

Share a specific story about you, your family, and your experiences. You do not need charts and citations to be compelling.

Be positive, when possible, and always respectful

Thank the committee for the opportunity to share your thoughts



WABA's 2024 Budget Priorities

1. Build the Off-Street Trail & On-Street Low Stress Network
 - a. Ensure DDOT teams & capital projects have needed resources to meet DC's goals
 - b. \$ & timeline for trails, streetscapes, safety & mobility
2. Fund & implement existing street safety laws
 - a. [Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Act 2019](#)
 - b. [Safer Streets Act 2022](#)
 - c. E-bike rebate
3. Take care of the Existing Network
 - a. DPW - \$ for proactive bike lane sweeping program
 - b. DDOT - overhaul Safe Accommodations permitting



Short Breakout

What budget issues are or have been important in your Ward or community? 5-6 Minutes

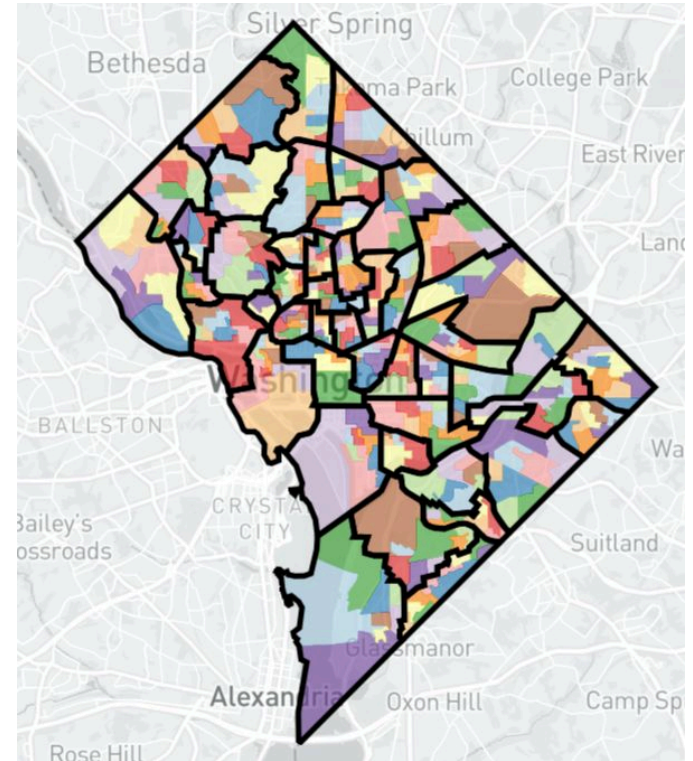


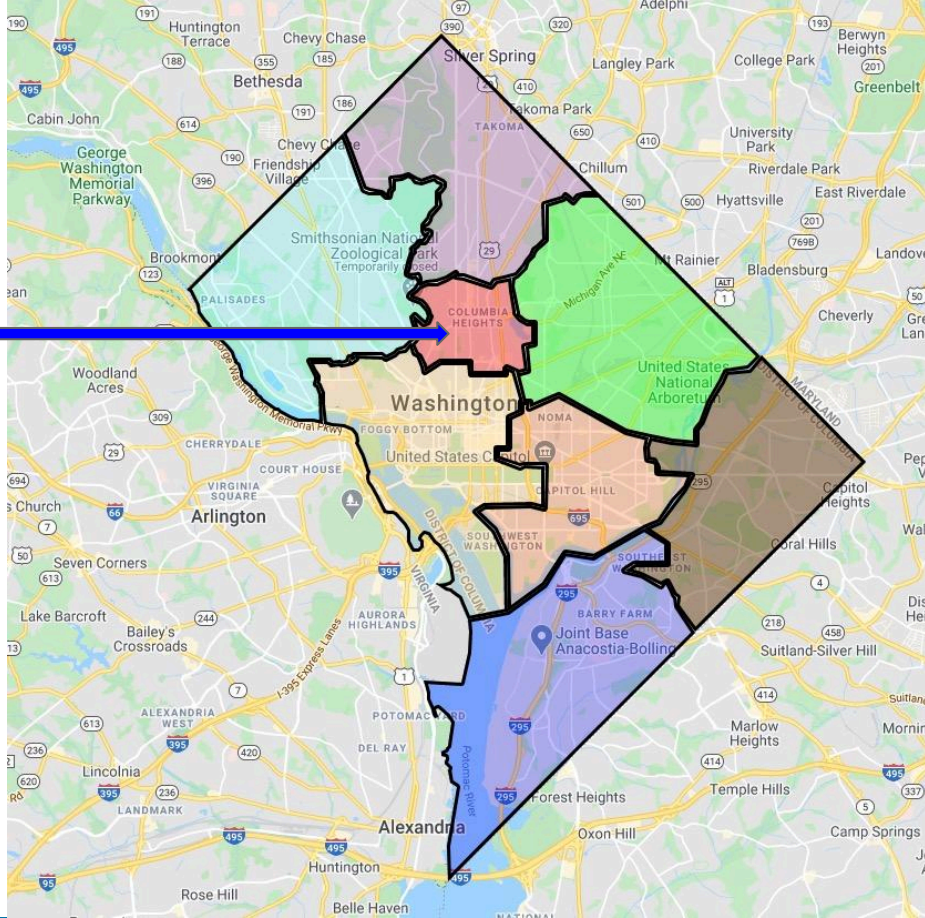
What is an Advisory Neighborhood Commission

- DC's most local form of government
- A body of volunteer commissioners
- Elected by their neighbors for 2 year terms
- Commissioners represent their Single Member District, an arbitrary district of about 2,000 people

DC has

- 8 wards
- ~46 ANCs & ~345 Single Member Districts
- ~345 elected neighborhood representatives
- See openanc.org to find yours

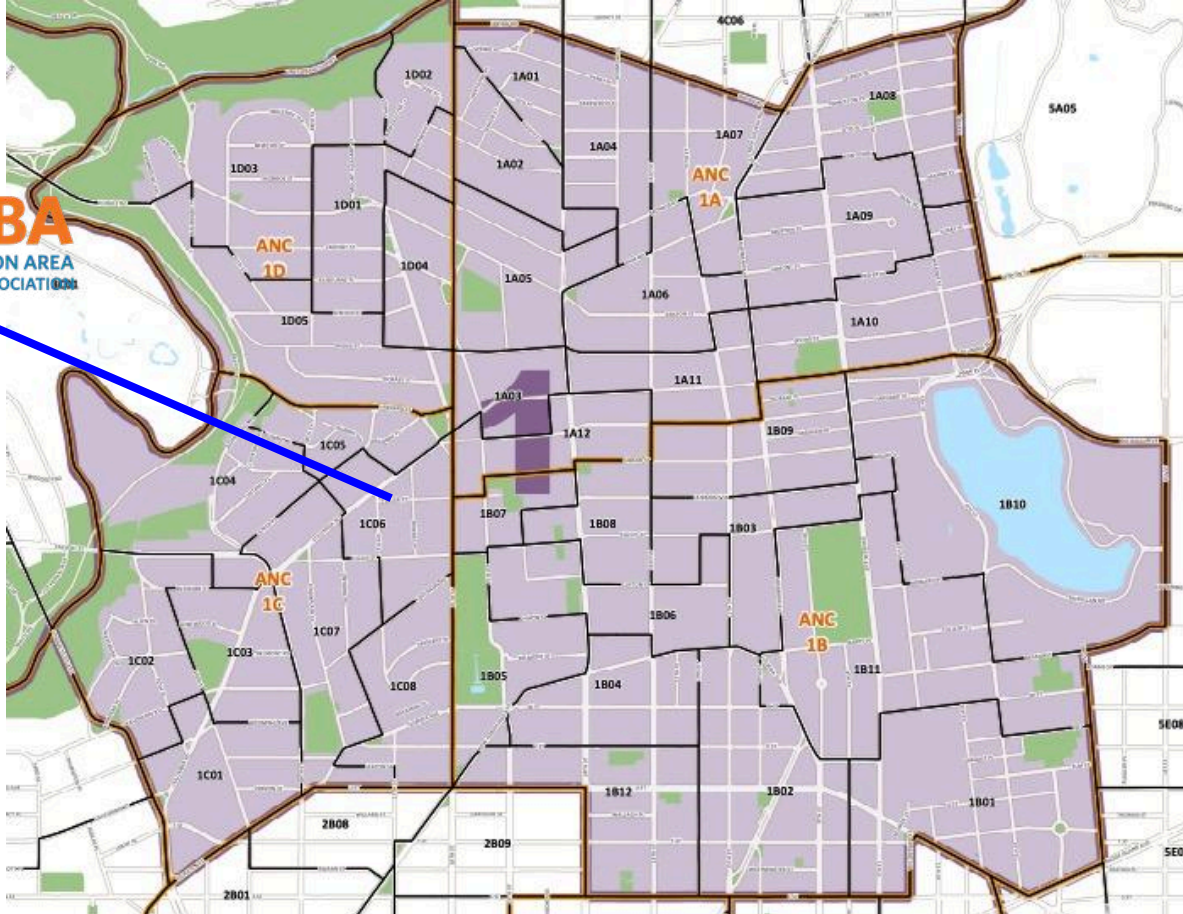




DC has 8 Wards. WABA's office is in Adams Morgan in Ward 1



WABA
WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION



Our office is in ANC 1C (on the west side of 16th St)





WABA
WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

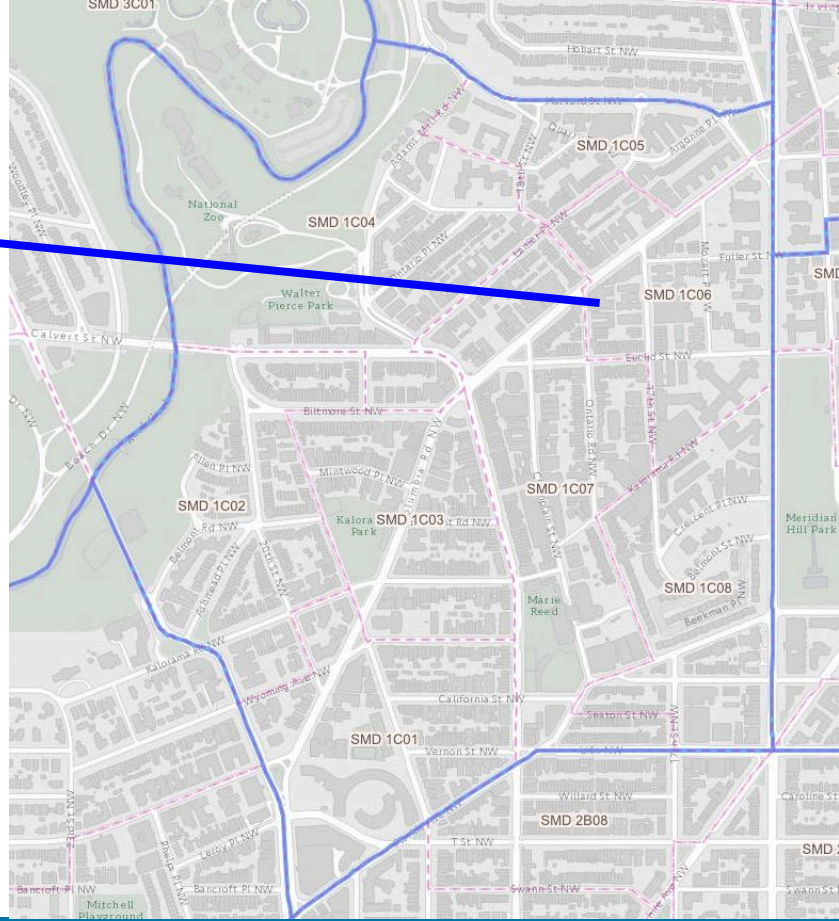
Your ANC and SMD

Advisory Neighborhood
Commission, **1C**

Visit the [ANC 1C
information page.](#)

Single Member
District **1C06** is
represented by
Commissioner,
Michaela Wright.



We are in Single Member District 1C06 represented by Commissioner Wright

What do ANCs Do?

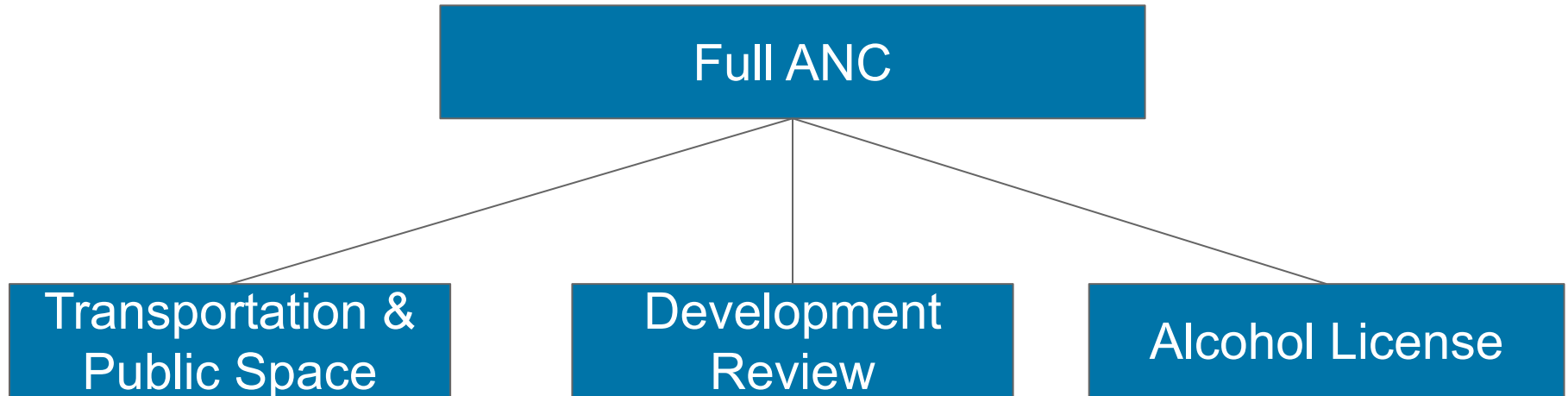
- They advise the DC government
- By law, DC government agencies must give ANCs notice and “great weight”
- Every ANC works a little differently
- They hold public meetings
- They discuss and vote on resolutions to take a position on issues (proactive or reactive)

Common areas of focus

- Street changes (parking, major rebuilding design, striping changes, like bike lanes)
- Development & Zoning - ANCs have an official role in development review, Planned Unit Developments, and zoning changes. Most also weighed in on the Comprehensive Plan
- Public space and alcohol licenses - restaurants and licence holders will negotiate with ANC for their support



Some Have Committees



ANC Meetings

- Noticed on the ANC website, email or twitter
- Have an agenda that is set & published in advance
- Open to the public
- Set aside time for community announcements & community concerns
- May provide time for community discussion on agenda items



Your Commissioner

- Was elected by neighbors
- Is there to represent you
- Should be responsive & open to input
- Is a resource for addressing community concerns, streets safety & more
- Is an **unpaid, volunteer human** with limited time (thank them for it)

**Start a relationship with your commissioner.
Plan for the future.**



Hey ANC Commissioners: a constituent wants to give you input on a decision your ANC will discuss soon. What's the most helpful way for them to interact with you?

In the replies: what do you want them to know for a more productive interaction?

10% Twitter/Facebook

61% Short email

23% Long email full of detail

6% phone call

31 votes • 16 hours left



Robb Dooling @RobbD... 6h

Replying to @gwhennigan

I value them knowing that my vote alone is not enough.

If they can convince their neighbors in adjacent districts to work on their commissioners too, it may go a long way.



Corey Holman @corey... 5h

Replying to @gwhennigan

For me: short email with offer to talk more and some broad time buckets that would work for you. But there are 290ish commissioners so I can't speak for everyone. Also reach out early in the process

Second?: Awareness of agenda ANC process is helpful to not have to explain.



Searchin' in the sun f... 4h

Replying to @gwhennigan

A short email concisely explaining a) your position and b) your reasons, with specific reference to the relevant criteria & legal standards the ANC must apply.

Two things I find of no use at all: how long you have lived in DC/whether you were born here, and how much you like /1

1 2



Searchin' in the sun f... 4h

Replying to @20002ist @gwh...

or dislike the applicant. IMO the decisions of the ANC do not depend on a popularity contest; nice people can ask for ridiculous things and odious people can make reasonable requests.

Short Breakout

How can you help WABA (or your campaign) track and stay in better touch with your ANC? 5-6 minutes





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Q & A