

READINGS ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGET FORMULATION: AVAILABLE ONLINE

(The following annotated readings are available online. The list is not comprehensive but only a sampling of what can be found in the web.)

Throughout the readings, the following icons identify the different types of resources used:



Background Information explaining ideas, processes and terms used at each steps



Tools and Resources which provide a framework for applying the concepts



Real-life Examples in the form of case studies and comments from practitioners



Suggested Methodologies for undertaking the steps and guidance in applying participatory budget formulation tools



Templates that help capture the outputs of the different steps in participatory budget formulation. The templates can be merely suggestions that may be adapted according to the needs by adding or modifying individual element, or by simplifying them.



Cabannes, Y. (2004, July). [72 Frequently Asked Questions about Participatory Budgeting](http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/faqqPP.pdf). Retrieved February 19, 2010, from UN Habitat: <http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/faqqPP.pdf>

The present Manual of Frequently Asked Questions intends to respond in a direct and practical way to the general question of how best to implement a Participatory Budget. The Manual is a key entry point to a broader Participatory Budgeting Toolkit, which is based on a collection of four types of useful resources for all those interested in adopting and adapting Participatory Budgeting in a particular context.

These four components are closely inter-linked and have been organized in the following form:

- a) Digital Library
- b) Set of technical and legal instruments
- c) 14 City Fact Sheets
- d) Resource Directory of people, organizations, contacts and websites (see diagram)

Participatory Budgeting cannot fit into a single model because the practice represents a range of initiatives with their own characteristics, which, furthermore, are constantly evolving and changing. These are multifaceted processes, which can be seen in the light of four dimensions in particular: a) participatory, b) budgetary, c) normative-/legal, and d) territorial/physical.

An important characteristic of Participatory Budgeting is that it is a process regulated by time (usually in annual cycles), by physical territory (normally the city limits), and in which the main actors are local governments and civil society. The contributions of Participatory Budgeting to enhancing good urban governance, in order of importance, are: i) an expansion and deepening of participation, ii) an increase in effectiveness, iii) a qualitatively different accountability system, iv) improved equity, and v) enhanced public safety.



Consulting, S. (2007, July). [Neighbourhood Perspectives: Briefing Note 1, Participatory Budgeting](#). Retrieved February 19, 2010, from SQW Consulting:
http://www.sqw.co.uk/file_download/101

Participatory Budgeting is an innovation from Brazil that is now being piloted in a growing number of councils in the UK. In July 2007, Hazel Blears, the new Communities Secretary, also announced Government funding for ten pilot projects in England. It is a process for involving local people more fully in decision-making about how mainstream funds are spent by councils.

This Briefing Note explains what Participatory Budgeting is, describes two UK case studies in Salford and Harrow (each taking a different approach) and looks at some of the pros and cons of the approach.



Shah, S. W. (2003, March). [Case Study 2 - Porto Alegre, Brazil: Participatory Approaches](#). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Participation and Civic Engagement - The World Bank:
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/1143372-1116506093229/20511036/sdn71.pdf>

This note describes the process, results, and concerns on doing a participatory budget formulation, based on the experience of Porto Alegre, Brazil. The paper raises the issue on how best to strike a fine balance between participation and quality representation. The possible tension that might arise between the participatory process and the legislature which feels increasingly insecure with the former's growth in popularity and influence. And the specter that participation might become the new status quo or behemoth that breeds its own demons. The authors citing De Sousa Santos, B, (1998:26) calls for occasional 'reflective self-subversion', attempts at 'radicalization' in order to moderate the 'routinization' of the process presents.



Wampler, B. (2000, October). [A Guide to Participatory Budgeting](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/214578-1116506912206/20508879/WamplerPB.pdf). Retrieved February 17, 2010, from Participation and Civic Engagement - World Bank:
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/214578-1116506912206/20508879/WamplerPB.pdf>

This guide suggests a step-by-step process on how to do Participatory Budgeting ala Porto Alegre. It poses two pre-conditions to achieve success which is as follows:

A city's broader political environment is an important factor that conditions the success of PB programs. Pre-existing networks of social movements, community organizations, and other voluntary associations provide important support for the experimental programs. PB programs depend on the active participation of citizens not only to select new policies but also to legitimize the government's reform efforts. Higher rates of participation will help to legitimize a government's policies. It is impossible to define a minimum level of civil society activism that is necessary for the implementation or functioning of a PB program, but it is noteworthy that PB programs have been most successful in municipalities in which their civil society has long been organized.

Available discretionary funding is important to implement a PB program as it increases the likelihood that citizens can directly select policy outcomes. The more financial flexibility that a government enjoys, the greater the influence that citizens can exercise on the selection of new public works. Governments must have the resources to initiate public works selected by the participants. While many PB programs address the overall financial health of the municipality, the principal focus remains discretionary spending. Brazilian municipalities that are in "decent" financial health tend to have 12-15% of their budgets available for new public works.



Claudio Acioly Jr., A. H. (2002, December). [Participatory Budgeting in the Municipality of Santo André, Brazil: the challenges in linking short-term action and long-term strategic planning](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/Resources/ENG192020participatory20budgeting.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Participation and Civic Engagement - The World Bank :
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/Resources/ENG192020participatory20budgeting.pdf>

This report is addressed to professionals and urban practitioners who are interested in participatory planning processes and in the establishment of organised priority setting mechanisms and decision-making involving government and communities on the allocation of public investments. Those who work in the public sector or with public policies at the local government level will benefit from the findings of the research particularly if their interest lies on the establishment of government-community management of public funds.

The findings of the research will be instrumental for NGO's and CBO's that are engaged in partnerships with local governments.



Schneider, A. &. (2002, January). [Budgets and Ballots in Brazil: Participatory Budgeting from the City to the State](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/urb_governance/pdf_part_budg/IDS_Schneider_Budgets_ballots_Brazil_Participatory_Budgeting.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Institute of Development Studies: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/urb_governance/pdf_part_budg/IDS_Schneider_Budgets_ballots_Brazil_Participatory_Budgeting.pdf

Budgeting institutions in the state of Rio Grande do Sul bring participatory democracy to public finance. A chief impact of participatory institutions is to change the relative power of groups within society. In this case, with the Workers' Party in state office, participatory decision-making strengthened lower class groups interested in redistribution to the poor. Putting participatory budgeting (PB) in place was no easy task, however, as it required overcoming the difficulties of incorporating face-to-face decision making at a scale unprecedented in terms of the number of people and the amount of money at stake. More significantly, implementing PB sparked the political opposition of those who had benefited from more closed decision making structures. Despite these obstacles, the PB has attracted hundreds of thousands of participants and has had a significant impact. Institutionally, PB opens avenues for participation to previously ignored segments of society and enhances government accountability. Politically, PB shows signs of shifting the balance of power in the party system. And fiscally, the PB has promoted a redistributive development model while improving budgetary planning and efficiency. In short, the PB is the instrument and example of a lower-class political project that includes a participatory vision of democracy and a redistributive vision of development.



Souza, C. (2001, April). [Participatory budgeting in Brazilian cities: limits and possibilities in building democratic institutions](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/urb_governance/pdf_part_budg/IIED_Souza_Budgeting_Brazil.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/urb_governance/pdf_part_budg/IIED_Souza_Budgeting_Brazil.pdf

This paper describes participatory budgeting in Brazil, where citizen assemblies in each district of a city determine priorities for the use of a part of the city's revenues. This is one of the most significant innovations in Latin America for increasing citizen participation and local government accountability. After describing its antecedents, as various local governments sought to increase citizen involvement during the 1970s and 1980s, the paper reviews the experience with participatory budgeting in the cities of Porto Alegre and Belo Horizonte. It describes who took part in different (district and sectoral) citizen assemblies, the resources they could call on and the priorities established. It also discusses its effectiveness regarding increased participation, more pro-poor expenditures and greater local government accountability. While noting the limitations (for instance, some of the poorest groups were not involved, and in other cities it was not so successful) the paper also highlights how participatory budgeting allows

formerly excluded groups to decide on investment priorities in their communities and to monitor government response. It has helped reduce clientelist practices and, perhaps more importantly for a society as unequal as Brazil, helped to build democratic institutions.



Wakely, P., & You, N. (2001). [Children and Participatory Budgeting in Barra Mansa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/urb_governance/pdf_part_budg/DFID_DPU_Brazil_Children_budget_Barra_Mansa.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/urb_governance/pdf_part_budg/DFID_DPU_Brazil_Children_budget_Barra_Mansa.pdf

This initiative shows how the political participation of children and young people in public affairs can develop their citizenship by means of a council for participatory budgeting. Promoting their participation gives young people the opportunity to discuss the needs of their neighbourhoods and the city.



Center for Urban Development Studies, G. S. (2004). [Assessment of Participatory Budgeting in Brazil](http://www.iadb.org/sds/doc/ParticipatoryBudget.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Inter-American Development Bank: <http://www.iadb.org/sds/doc/ParticipatoryBudget.pdf>

Participatory planning and management processes in local governance are a precondition to the success of social inclusion strategies where poverty alleviation is a key component. In this perspective, the experience of Brazil's participatory budgeting is interesting and instructive. The OP ("Orçamento Participativo" is the Portuguese term for Participatory Budget) has proven to be a more versatile and flexible instrument than originally envisaged by both proponents and opponents. It has offered the poor and the marginalized an unprecedented opportunity to participate in local governance without preempting the statutory powers of elected representatives or the executive authority of municipal officials. The popular response is a clear testimony to the difference that social inclusion and citizenship can make to the lives of previously disenfranchised populations. This is attributable in part to the structure of the process carrying decision-making to the community level through popular voting at the micro-regional plenaries. It also reflects the organizational capabilities of the social movements and the outreach efforts by dedicated municipal staff.

Undoubtedly, the significant commitment in staff time and resources required for effective outreach, organization and smooth implementation are costs that must be considered. As managerial difficulties increase with the scale and complexity of the operation, even among OP proponents the enthusiasm of mayors contrasts with the cautiousness of governors. Political and managerial considerations rather than financial constraints are the determinant factors of success. Failures in the implementation process alienate citizens and carry a political risk.

The political potency of the proponents and opponents is another factor to ponder. The OP offers distinct advantages and disadvantages for the different actors involved. Their support

would, to a large extent, depend on the preexisting quality of local governance. A truly representative and honest council and administration would be concerned by social equity and able to give a voice to lower income and marginalized groups. The enthusiasm for direct popular democracy among social movements, most NGOs, and left of center political parties, with the PT in the lead, indicates that there is a widespread feeling of social exclusion among a broad segment of population.

As the scale of the operation expands with the size of the city, there is a significant but manageable cost to institute and implement the OP. Assessment of feasibility depends on the value placed on empowerment and participatory local governance. It is primarily a political decision because the constraint on successful implementation is institutional capacity rather than costs per se.



Utzig, J. E. (n.d.). [Participatory budgeting of Porto Alegre: a discussion in the light of the principle of democratic legitimacy and of the criterion of governance performance](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/214578-1116506912206/20553242/Utzigpaper.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Participation and Civic Engagement - The World Bank: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPCENG/214578-1116506912206/20553242/Utzigpaper.pdf>

In spite of the many problems and limitations, it is incontestable that the performance of the PT's government in Porto Alegre has been very good, among the best in the spectrum of the governments of great cities in Brazil. How has it been possible? How can good governance be articulated with broad participation of the layman in public affairs? How can the stimulation of the demands of the communities be compatible with keeping the finance situation in good shape? Obviously, there is no easy answer for these questions. The paper, however, gives the following preliminarily hypotheses to answer these questions.

1) What happens is a process of social planning supported by an open negotiation among different actors. In this process a dialogue among the specialized knowledge of technicians, the opinions of the politicians, and the needs and opinions of society takes place and through this dialogue these actors influence and are influenced by the others. The result has usually been a well-balanced budget that strongly incorporates the demands of the disempowered people and has been far from prejudicial to the long-term perspective of the city. Probably, although it is true that specialized knowledge has become increasingly important, the discourse on the impossibilities of having popular participation in the context of the bureaucratization of the state has in fact been greatly exaggerated as a consequence of both a technocratic bias and an elitist view of democracy. There is in fact a space, located out of the state, from where the participation of society can strongly influence the functioning of the state and that is not incompatible with professional administration.

2) The growing accountability that comes from PB has helped to redefine the way in which many sectors of the civil servants behave. They have become more accountable and, as a result, more dedicated and more flexible to the relations with society. In the context of PB the


bureaucracy has become more insulated from the pressure of politicians and even from the pressure of private interests, in spite of the fact that it is more exposed to society. The reason is simple: there are clear and public rules that must be followed in the process of making up the budget. The different proposals and interests, in order to prevail, should participate in the game according to its rules. Therefore, the technicians have more autonomy and independence to operate in technical matters and give their technical opinions. At the same time, the contact between technicians and communities required by PB has brought to the planning process a fundamental element that is often missing: the knowledge not only of the preferences of the people but also of the dynamic of the interplay among social actors. In consequence, the planning process acquires a better sense of reality.

3) The sharing of power and decisions and the increased transparency that happen in the context of PB have helped to establish trust among potentially competing interests (Cohen and Rogers: 1996) and to create a climate of cooperation and mutual respect between state and society. Therefore, all the actors have become more responsible to both the political process and to the decisions adopted. It is interesting to note, for instance, that regarding finance management, PB has been not an obstacle but a stimulus to avoid deficits that would certainly lead to crises. This is so because the trust that exists among the actors makes it possible, for instance, to reduce the demands of society to a size that fits the budget instead of increasing the budget to a size that fits the demands. Further, by showing constantly the budget figures, a requirement of the process, the government has stimulated a sense of responsibility on the part of the population that more actively participates in the process. This part has known both the capabilities and the limits of the government to invest and has learned that overinvestment would result in crises and less capability to invest in the future. Therefore, it is possible, even though hard, to discuss with this population what can and what cannot be done. In addition, it is possible, though still hard, to discuss and to get support for both improving the revenue and cutting the expenditures when one or both of these measures are needed.


4) In fact, a mechanism of social governance makes it possible to interject into the political process greater consideration of the public interest (Mansbridge: 1996). Put better, it makes possible the emergence of a more appropriate notion of public interest. The technocratic idea that the state is the guardian of the public interest has been undermined by the failures of the state and by the implacable criticism that actually the interests of the bureaucracy have captured the state. This fact has increasingly given place to the idea that there is no such thing as public interest but just the diversity of the pluralist private interests of society. As a result, the political process becomes essentially a struggle for power among competing private interests in which the stronger and more capable, ultimately, prevail. To face up to this idea, a notion of the public interest that cannot be confounded with the interest of the state bureaucracy is needed. It can come only from a process of public and open debate on public affairs in which the state must be exposed to society (in order to be inducted and controlled), and the actors of society (in order to legitimate their own demands and points of view) must take into account not only what is best for themselves but also what is best for the others and for the whole. An institution like PB can result in good governance precisely because it creates a

dynamic in which this less tangible but also more reasonable notion of public interest can come to reality.

5) Last but not least, the performance of the government of Porto Alegre has been good because it has also implemented, so to speak, the fundamentals of a good administrative practice. As Tendler (1997) shows, good government depends on the combination of many different variables but it cannot work well with lack of political will and administrative capacity. Had the government of Porto Alegre not been able to keep the financial situation in healthy condition, to motivate the employees of the municipality, and to improve its managerial capacity and increase the quality of the services, for sure it would not have succeeded. Briefly, it would be naïve to think that it is just participation that has led to the outcomes that we saw earlier. PB is responsible neither for all the successes nor for all the failures of the Porto Alegre's government. Furthermore, PB is neither a warrantee nor a magical solution. What the analysis of PB actually shows is that broad participation is not incompatible with and can eventually help the achievement of good governance.

 Africa, U. N. (2008). [Participatory Budgeting in Africa: A Training Companion with cases from eastern and southern Africa](http://www.scribd.com/doc/24935393/Participatory-Budgeting-in-Africa-A-Training-Companion-Vol-1-Concepts-and-Principles?secret_password=&autodown=pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Scribd.com: http://www.scribd.com/doc/24935393/Participatory-Budgeting-in-Africa-A-Training-Companion-Vol-1-Concepts-and-Principles?secret_password=&autodown=pdf

This Training Companion on participatory budgeting in Africa is part of the effort to build the capacity of local government officials and their partners in introducing the practice to Africa. The Companion was developed to provide users with information, tools, methodologies, case studies and tips on how participatory budgeting could be introduced and sustained. The materials in the Companion were collected from various local governments in Africa and other countries where participatory budgeting is being practiced. Users are encouraged to adopt the material to their local condition. It is the hope of the authors that this companion will help to stimulate local governments to work closely with their citizens to strengthen decentralized governance and deepen democracy in Africa. Further, the inter-regional collaboration approach adopted throughout the development of this Training Companion will, hopefully, generate further opportunities for those who have been directly involved but for many other urban specialists from African regions and elsewhere.

 PFI, U. (2006, February). [Introducing the Concept of Civic Engagement - Participatory Pro-Poor Budgeting](http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN022451.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from UNPAN: <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN022451.pdf>

A power point presentation detailing the steps of participatory budgeting, as well as the issues that a practitioner has to confront.



Urán, O. (2004, December 6-9). [Planning and Participatory Budget Program \(PPBP\) in Medellin-Colombia](http://www2.ids.ac.uk/logolink/resources/downloads/Recite%20writeups/MEDELLIN.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Institute of Development Studies: <http://www2.ids.ac.uk/logolink/resources/downloads/Recite%20writeups/MEDELLIN.pdf>

A bullet points of how planning and participatory budget program was implemented in Medellin, Colombia.



The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), D. f. (2004, November). [Gender and Participatory Budgeting](http://www.gender-budgets.org/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_view/gid,362/). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from [gender-budgets.org](http://www.gender-budgets.org/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_view/gid,362/): http://www.gender-budgets.org/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_view/gid,362/

Gender and participatory budgeting are two new approaches which can promote the interests of marginalised groups and direct public money to better reflect the needs of the poor. They are increasingly being used in developing countries to give civil society groups or members of a community a means to influence the way public resources are spent. Similar approaches have also been used in the United Kingdom and there is scope for the lessons emerging from developing countries to feed into the further development of such approaches in the United Kingdom. This paper highlights examples of these two initiatives and considers the benefits and challenges they present. It also indicates some of the ways in which members of a professional organisation such as CIPFA might contribute to further research and development in this field.



Ana Cristina Bicharra Garcia, F. B. (2005). [Electronic participatory budgeting \(e-PPB\): increasing people participation in the decision-making process](http://inderscience.metapress.com/app/home/contribution.asp?referrer=parent&backto=issue,9,9;journal,18,21;linkingpublicationresults,1:112382,1). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Inder Science Publishers: Abstract only – C 30.00
<http://inderscience.metapress.com/app/home/contribution.asp?referrer=parent&backto=issue,9,9;journal,18,21;linkingpublicationresults,1:112382,1>

The advances in information and communication technology (ICT) have raised new expectations to bring democracy to its full potential. This paper discusses three unsuccessful attempts to revive Athenian democracy using ICT to deal with participation scalability. We argue that the lack of the appropriate technological layers caused disappointments and distrust in the population.



Jacobi, P. (1999). [Challenging Traditional Participation in Brazil: The Goals of Participatory Budgeting](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/ACF1CA.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/ACF1CA.pdf>

Using the mechanism of “participatory budgeting” implemented in the city of Porto Alegre, Pedro Jacobi analyses a new practice of resource allocation in several Brazilian urban areas. He comes to the conclusion that participatory budgeting is an effective tool in the democratization of the city’s management — helping to break old patterns of clientelist relations. According to Jacobi, the new mechanism promotes decentralization of municipal decision-making and increases public control over the city’s investment policies.

According to him, the process of participatory budgeting consists of three important steps. First, the city’s administration formulates the investment priorities and informally discusses them with the city’s districts. Second, priorities are legitimized by the Regional Budget Forum, the formal meeting of the city’s district representatives. Finally, the investment plan is implemented under the control of the Forum’s representatives and civic associations. The increase in municipal revenues, animation of public discussion, and the decline of old-style clientelistic associations in Porto Alegre reflect the success of this new approach.



Cleuren, H. (2008, December). [Administrating Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre. Street Level Officials and Organizational Preconditions](http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/fichero_articulo?codigo=2932574&orden=0). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Revista Chilena de Administracion Publica: dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/fichero_articulo?codigo=2932574&orden=0

A refreshing look at the phenomenon that is Porto Alegre. The author has demystified participatory budgeting by linking its success to community organizers or political organizers rather than CSOs. He goes on to say that the Worker’s Party (Partido Trabalhadores) has become a victim of its own success by overusing or making participatory budgeting institutionalized in Porto Alegre, creating a behemoth of its own, growing its own culture and eventually alienated itself from the larger public that it represents.

The paper also points out why its neighboring city of Curitiba has managed to dwarfed Alegre, despite not having participatory budgeting.



Spada, P. (2009, September). [The Economic and Political Effects of Participatory Budgeting](http://www.yale.edu/leitner/resources/papers/effectsofPB_sept09.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Yale University: http://www.yale.edu/leitner/resources/papers/effectsofPB_sept09.pdf

What are the effects of Brazilian participatory budgeting? Most studies answer this question using selected case studies. This paper proposes an empirical analysis of the political and fiscal effects of participatory budgeting. Focusing on all the cities that have a population greater than

50,000 inhabitants between the years 1996 and 2008 it extends significantly the scope and understanding of previous empirical work. The results show that participatory budgeting does not alter the composition of public spending. The effect of PB on spending seems to be limited to health care. The percentage of resources devoted to health care is higher in cities adopting participatory budgeting. To the contrary of previous anecdotal evidence participatory budgeting, in this sample, has no significant effects on revenues. Finally participatory budgeting significantly increases the probability of reelection of the party of the mayor. The latter result could help explain the widespread adoption of participatory budgeting.



Michael Schaeffer, S. Y. (2008, November 12). [Strengthening Local Government Budgeting and Accountability](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1297806). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from Social Science Research Network: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1297806

In many developing and middle-income countries, decentralization reforms are promoting changes in governance structures that are reshaping the relationship between local governments and citizens. The success of these decentralization reforms depends on the existence of sound public financial systems both at the central and local levels. This paper focuses on the role of budgeting as a critical tool in reform efforts, highlighting problems that might impede successful local government budget development and implementation. The attainment of effective local government accountability and transparency is not an end itself, but rather it represents the means to support better decision-making on national and local budgeting. Community based schemes for enhancing local government accountability need to combine legal, political, and administrative mechanisms with proactive community involvement. Of particular importance are the legal and budgetary instruments that require input from local community members on certain local government decisions and instruments that increase accessibility for the press or the general public at large to information on government activities.



Nieuwland, H. T. (2003, October 17-19). [A Participatory Budgeting Model For Canadian Cities: Improving Representation Through Increased Citizen Participation In The Municipal Budgeting Process](http://www.chs.ubc.ca/participatory/docs/H.Nieuwland_PB_Paper.pdf). Retrieved February 18, 2010, from http://www.chs.ubc.ca/participatory/docs/H.Nieuwland_PB_Paper.pdf

The author presents a theoretical PB model designed to suit the needs of Canadian cities was presented. In the model, the Mayor and city councillors organize venues where citizens can participate in deliberations on issues of importance both to their communities and to the city as a whole. Participants are empowered to rank a series of service-based, district-level themes; these rankings, combined with other considerations (population, low-income, participation), determine the allocation of budgetary resources to the themes. At the same time, participants tender proposals for city-wide and local projects to the government. Feasible projects are then submitted to the Deliberative Budgeting Council, a representative sample of citizens who, after

hearing from citizens, third sector organizations, the civil service, and after deliberating amongst themselves, decide which projects will receive funding.

While the proposed model is a useful and practical contribution to the development of PB in Canada, numerous challenges await resolution. The capacity of third sector organizations to support a PB process remains weak and must be advanced; similarly the PB process would benefit from a strategy to develop the budget-analysis capacity of citizens and third sector organizations. Finally, organized political parties with the political will to implement and sustain PB must be identified and rigorously supported.



Gonçalves, S. (2009, February 12). [Power to the People: The Effects of Participatory Budgeting on Municipal Budget Expenditures and Infant Mortality in Brazil](http://personal.lse.ac.uk/goncalsm/job%20market/Sonia%20Goncalves%20-%20JMP.pdf). Retrieved February 19, 2010, from London School of Economics:
<http://personal.lse.ac.uk/goncalsm/job%20market/Sonia%20Goncalves%20-%20JMP.pdf>

Participatory budgeting, via which the common citizen is given the ability to interact with the elected politicians in the drafting of the local budget, became a popular political reform in Brazilian municipalities in the 1990s and attracted widespread attention across the world. This paper investigates whether the use of participatory budgeting in Brazilian municipalities in the period 1991-2004 has affected the pattern of municipal expenditures and had any measurable impact on living conditions. The paper shows that the municipalities that made use of this participatory mechanism favoured an allocation of public expenditures that closely matched the popular preferences. And channeled a larger fraction of their total budget to key investments in sanitation and health services. The paper also finds that this change in the composition of municipal expenditures is associated with a pronounced reduction in the infant mortality rates for municipalities which adopted participatory budgeting. This suggests that promoting a more direct interaction between service users and elected officials in budgetary design and implementation can affect both how local resources are spent and associated living standard outcomes.



Kanoute, B. (2009, June). [Strengthening Budgetary Transparency, Participation and Public Auditing in Africa](http://www.mdpafrica.org.zw/journals/vol3-1-6/Strengthening%20Budgetary%20Transparency.doc). Retrieved February 19, 2010, from Municipal Development Partnership - Eastern and Southern Africa: <http://www.mdpafrica.org.zw/journals/vol3-1-6/Strengthening%20Budgetary%20Transparency.doc>

The paper gives an overview of the characteristic fiscal problems experienced by most African countries giving rise to the case for strengthening transparency, public participation and audit in participatory budgeting. A pure literature review case study survey was deployed for the paper. General normative statements of principle are reflected in the paper setting ground for empirical verification for practical value addition.