Participatory Budgeting
Niagara Falls, NY

PB 2019 Voting Ballot and Voting Guidelines

Published: June 14, 2019
About the Voting Ballot and Voting Guidelines

This booklet was developed by the City of Niagara Falls Department of Community Development to explain ballot items and voting guidelines for the 2019 Participatory Budgeting (PB) process. 2019 PB is the third year that Niagara Falls has used U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for improving our communities with this community-led, inclusive, democratic process. We hope this document supports that process and results in a better future for Niagara Falls. A full description of PB 2019 is explained in the PB 2019 Guidebook.

Goals of PB

Goal 1: Make Hyde Park an all ages, all abilities, all day destination

PB 2019 will generate physical space improvements to the Rose Garden Area at Hyde Park. Residents were invited to propose ideas for facility and other physical space improvements to the Rose Garden Area at Hyde Park.

Goal 2: Programming our Public Spaces

NF CD will work with community partners to host programming and events in our city’s public spaces throughout 2019 and 2020. Residents were invited to propose ideas for programs and events that provide healthy recreational activities, opportunities for learning and education, and community service delivery.

Timeline

Idea Sessions
PB Idea Session #1 – Saturday, April 27, 10 am. (Hyde Park Stone Room)

PB Idea Session #2 – Tuesday, April 30, 5:30 pm. (Hyde Park Stone Room)

PB Idea Session #3 – Saturday, June 1, 10 am. (Niagara Falls High School)

Vote
Saturday, June 15 – Sunday, June 30
Voting will take place during regular CD business hours and online at nf-cd.org

Announcement Event
Saturday, July 13, 10AM-12PM (Rose Garden, Hyde Park)
Rose Garden Area Improvement Ballot

Rose Garden Area Improvement Ballot Items will be voted on through ranked choice. Voters must rank each item from most desired (choice 1) to least desired (choice 3). PB 2019 will fund the top ranked ballot item. If there are additional funds available, PB 2019 will fund the second ranked ballot item with a scope of work appropriate to remaining funds.

Ballot Item #1: Rose Garden Pavilion Structure Improvements
Voting for this item will:
- Provide funds to repair and improve the Rose Garden Pavilion
- Provide funds for repairing and improving the use of the lawn bowling courts in front of the Rose Garden Pavilion

Ballot Item #2: Rose Garden Landscaping Improvements
Voting for this item will:
- Provide funds to prepare a dynamic landscape design for the Rose Garden
- Provide funds to purchase and install designed landscape features

Ballot Item #3: Rose Garden Area Safety Improvements
Voting for this item will:
- Provide funds to install additional safety lighting in the parking lot adjacent to the Rose Garden Area
- Provide funds to improve crosswalks and pathways for increased pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Provide funds for other public safety needs for the Rose Garden area as defined by NFPD and the community

Public Space Programming Ballot

All Public Space Programming Ballot Items will provide $10,000 to programs run by the City of Niagara Falls or local community-based non-profit organizations. The program must be either (1) a new public service (2) or provide a quantifiable increase in the level of an existing public service. More about CDBG public service eligibility can be found at 24 CFR 570.201(e).

PB 2019 will fund the top voted programs to the extent possible with the funding available. The City of Niagara Falls Department of Community Development will request proposals from City and non-profit programs to determine award of funds.
Ballot Item #1: Cultural Sharing Programs/Events
Programs or events that share different cultural foods, games, traditions, sports, stories, etc reflective of cultures present in Niagara Falls.

Ballot Item #2: City Market Music Series
A music series held in the City Market in conjunction with local programs and local business.

Ballot Item #3: Trade Skills Programming
After school and summer programs that offer job training in local trades to youth (14-18) and/or young adults (19-25).

Ballot Item #4: Arts & Crafts Activities in City Parks
Programs that teach art & craft making and provide free materials and instruction to youth and parents at various City Parks throughout the City.

Ballot Item #5: Support City Market Farmers’ Market
 Funds to support local business and activities held at the City Market Farmers’ Market.

Ballot Item #6: Guest Speaker Series with Community Activity
Host a series of speakers that must also lead a community activity. Speakers and community activities to be determined by public input.

Ballot Item #7: Community-Police Relationship Building Program
A program that strengthens community-police relationships and community policing practices in Niagara Falls.

Ballot Item #8: Juvenile Crime Prevention Program
A program that prevents juvenile crime that offers education, training, and resources for youth development.

Ballot Item #9: Life Skills Mentorship Program
A program for parents and children that offers “life skills” education, training, and resources.
**Voting Guidelines**

**Voter Eligibility**
Voters must be individuals 14-years-old or older and residents of Niagara Falls, NY during the voting period. One ballot per voter. Any voter not meeting age or residency requirements or submit multiple ballots will have their vote canceled.

**Voting Period**
Saturday, June 15, 2019 through Sunday, June 30, 2019

**Voting Opportunities**
All voting will be conducted through an online survey hosted at nf-cd.org/pb360. Assistance to those without internet access will be provided to eligible voters during regular office hours at Niagara Falls Community Development.

**Location:**
Niagara Falls Community Development
1022 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

**Regular Office Hours:**
Tuesday, 8am – 4pm
Wednesday, 8am – 4pm
Thursday, 8am – 4pm

**Voter Requirements**
Voters must provide their full name and address and affirm they are 14-years-old or older in order to submit a ballot.

**Voter Privacy**
Voting will be conducted using SurveyLegend, a cloud-based surveying service. Names and addresses collected will be used to verify residency and check for multiple ballot submissions by individuals. The City of Niagara Falls and SurveyLegend will not share ballot submissions with third-party organizations.