

How Does The Budget Get Funded?

The City of Vancouver generates revenue from a variety of sources to fund the annual budget. Provincial legislation requires Vancouver City Council to produce a balanced budget each year. This means they cannot run a deficit to fund the operating budget, in other words, the city cannot spend more money than it brings in. The capital budget is allowed to use invested funds and debt instruments (e.g. issuing bonds and borrowing money from other levels of government) to fund projects, but these debts are paid out annually through the operating budget.

The City of Vancouver's annual budget is composed of:

Property Tax

- The property tax rate is set by council
- Funds the majority of services in the operating budget
- Used for the maintenance or renewal of civic infrastructure and facilities in the capital budget

Utility Fees

- Primarily funds utility services within the operating budget
- Also provides capital funds to maintain utility infrastructure
- Examples: water distribution, sewage, garbage collection and disposal

License and Development Fees

- Money businesses and developers pay to operate in the city
- Used primarily for expanding and building new infrastructure and facilities

User Fees and Other Sources

- Funds gathered through various city services
- Examples: community centre programs, city parking

