City of Minneapolis
FY 2005 Budget

Budget Principles

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1. Secure the City's long-term financial health.

- ♦ Plan budgets based on ten-year outlook.
- ♦ Balance budgets across all funds.

2. Live within our means

- ♦ Adopt a revenue and debt policy before making spending decisions.
- ♦ Adopt consistent budget policies across all city government units including independent boards.

3. Challenge assumptions – nothing is off the table.

- ♦ Development agency resources are City resources.
- ♦ Unexpected revenue sources go through the same budget process as other revenue.
- ♦ While some functions may be identified as core services, they will also be scrutinized for efficiencies like anything else.

4. Provide choices and competition.

- ♦ Departments will provide business plans including feasible budget options to policymakers.
- ♦ Elected officials will make strategic resource decisions, not across-the-board cuts.
- ♦ Individual projects in a particular area must not be considered for funding individually.

5. Build in collaborative and transparent decision-making.

- ♦ Mayor will involve Council Members and independent agencies and boards in the development of the budget. Employee suggestions and the citizen survey will also be used.

6. Protect core service delivery by avoiding duplication – both internal and external

- ♦ Between different City departments and agencies,
- ♦ With the County, the State, independent boards, or other levels of Government, and
- ♦ With non-profits or the private sector.
- ♦ Consolidation or realignment of critical functions is an option.

7. Demand accountability.

- ♦ Departments are expected to produce measurable outcomes (x dollars = y level of service). Failure to produce measurements will not result in escape from budget cuts.
- ♦ Department heads must manage to original budget.