

Keep Edmonds Vibrant!

Our Future: Budget Visioning Workshop
April 16, 2025 | 6:30pm | Edmonds Library



Who are we?

We are group of residents who banded together out of concern about the future of our city.

Specifically, we are doubtful that we can sustain the vibrancy that currently defines Edmonds if we fail to identify and pursue sustained sources of new revenue.

And thus, **Keep Edmonds Vibrant** is a very preliminary concept for a **city-wide coalition of various stakeholders** – residents, non-profit groups, local businesses, etc. - **all committed to advocating for the continued thriving and vibrancy of this city.**

SAVE

Frances Anderson Center

Over 7,000 letters sent to Councilmembers and the Mayor in just over 72 hours



Goals:

1. Identify and pursue specific policy changes that **raise sustained revenues.**
2. Identify and advocate for a **specific levy amount.**



Tonight's objectives:

1. Frame the issue
2. Begin visioning for a vibrant Edmonds

Follow along with us!

Edmonds' budget emergency

Financial Issues We Face	
Internal loan	\$6,000,000 (Need to pay back)
Reserves previously used	\$8,000,000 (Need to pay back)
<u>Fire will go up (approximately)</u>	<u>\$8,900,000 (Need to pay if Levy Fails)</u>
	\$22,900,000
Funds not available if Levy fails	\$6,500,000
Funds not available if Nov. Levy fails	\$6,000,000+
Expenses exceed revenues	
We have significantly cut staff and programs	
We have a significant maintenance backlog	

2025 Projected Revenue: \$53,571,000

2025 Budget: \$66,581,000

Shortfall: -\$13,010,000

Blue Ribbon Panel: Summary of findings

To view the *Blue Ribbon Commission's* full executive summary, please see [here](#):

1. **Unsustainable Budgeting Practices:** **Expenditures have exceeded revenues** for three of the past four years. A significant factor has been the use of one-time resources (e.g., grants) to cover ongoing costs, leading to structural budget issues.
2. **Overstated Revenue Estimates:** The city consistently overestimated its revenues, which led to budget shortfalls. This was compounded by underperformance in actual revenue collection in several years.
3. **Staffing and Compensation Increases:** Between 2021 and 2024, the city added 38 full-time employees, increasing personnel costs by nearly \$5 million annually. **These increases were not matched by revenue growth**, leading to further fiscal strain.
4. **Antiquated Financial Systems:** The city's financial systems, especially its budgeting software, are outdated, contributing to inefficiencies and errors in financial management.
5. **Deferred Maintenance:** **Significant deferred maintenance on city infrastructure, including roads and buildings**, exacerbated the city's financial situation.

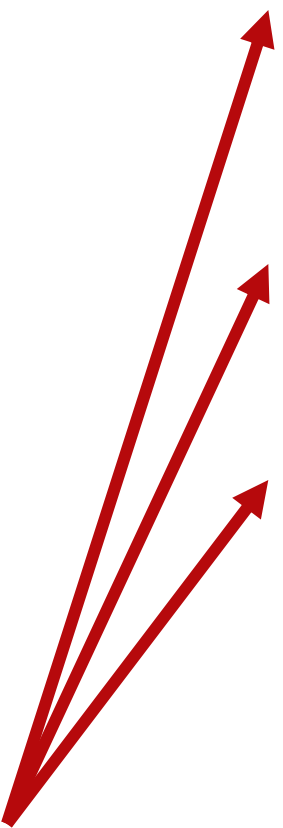
Blue Ribbon Panel: proposed solutions

1. Revenue Increases:

- a) **New Fees and Traffic Enforcement Cameras:** The panel recommends introducing new revenue sources, such as traffic cameras at busy intersections and school zones, to generate additional funds.
- b) **Annexation to the Regional Fire Authority (RFA):** A levy to support public safety could be proposed, along with a potential annexation to the RFA to address rising fire service costs. However, annexation is controversial as it could increase costs for residents.
- c) **New Taxes:** A property tax levy lid lift and potentially a 1% annual increase for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and General Fund (GF) are under consideration, but these would likely require a vote and take time to implement.

Blue Ribbon Panel: proposed solutions

2. Expenditure Reductions:

- a) **Hiring Freeze:** A freeze on hiring new staff unless absolutely necessary, and scrutinizing existing positions, has been implemented. Additionally, overtime use will be strictly monitored and controlled.
 - b) **Reduced Capital Spending:** Deferring capital projects and reducing expenditure on non-essential items will help ease the fiscal burden.
 - c) **Headcount Reductions and Professional Service Cuts:** The city may need to reduce its workforce and cut down on contracted services. This includes a review of professional services, especially those linked to the fire and EMS services.
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These are *temporary*, not long-term, solutions.

Full-Time Employees, peer cities:

City	Pop. In Thousands	FTE#	FTE per capita
Olympia	57	649.00	11.4
Lynnwood	42	357.00	8.5
Puyallup	43	326.00	7.6
Issaquah	42	299.25	7.1
Seatac	33	234.30	7.1
Bothell	51	354.00	6.9
Lacey	60	365.50	6.1
Edmonds	43	252.74	5.9
Shoreline	62	260.00	4.2

City-owned facility conditions

Building	Cardno Estimated Maintenance Costs (5 Years)	Estimated Capital Replacement Costs (5 Years)	Estimated Building Costs (5 Years)	Cardno Building Replacement Cost	5 Year FCI Score
Boys and Girls Club	\$62,555	\$272,302	\$334,857	\$1,634,707	0.20
Cemetery Building	\$10,325	\$12,404	\$22,729	\$180,105	0.13
City Hall	\$265,405	\$1,679,717	\$1,945,122	\$8,124,420	0.24
Fishing Pier	\$11,830	\$37,781	\$49,611	\$213,795	0.23
Frances Anderson Center	\$389,105	\$2,638,683	\$3,027,788	\$13,113,901	0.23
FS 16	\$97,635	\$404,805	\$502,440	\$3,076,082	0.16
FS 17	\$162,595	\$874,470	\$1,037,065	\$2,817,346	0.37
FS 20	\$93,540	\$143,219	\$236,759	\$1,839,899	0.13
Historic Log Cabin	\$4,460	\$26,078	\$30,538	\$88,697	0.34
Historical Museum	\$51,310	\$64,399	\$115,709	\$1,103,831	0.10
Library and Plaza Room	\$744,030	\$1,371,824	\$2,115,854	\$5,299,970	0.40
Meadowdale Club House	\$30,020	\$94,076	\$124,096	\$941,817	0.13
Old Public Works	\$86,475	\$379,785	\$466,260	\$3,316,926	0.14
Parks Maint. Building	\$34,645	\$267,199	\$301,844	\$1,307,959	0.23
Public Safety building	\$306,265	\$1,426,671	\$1,732,936	\$9,203,257	0.19
Public Works O&M Center	\$146,730	\$1,597,177	\$1,743,907	\$4,822,482	0.36
Wade James Theater	\$44,490	\$493,030	\$537,520	\$2,133,487	0.25
Yost Pool House	\$84,610	\$250,293	\$334,903	\$1,250,373	0.27

FCI is the total cost of the existing maintenance, repair, or renewal of the facility divided by the total estimated replacement value (or CRV, current replacement value) of the facility.

0 to .05	Excellent-Good
.051 to .1	Good-Fair
.11 to .3	Fair-Poor
.31+	Poor-Critical

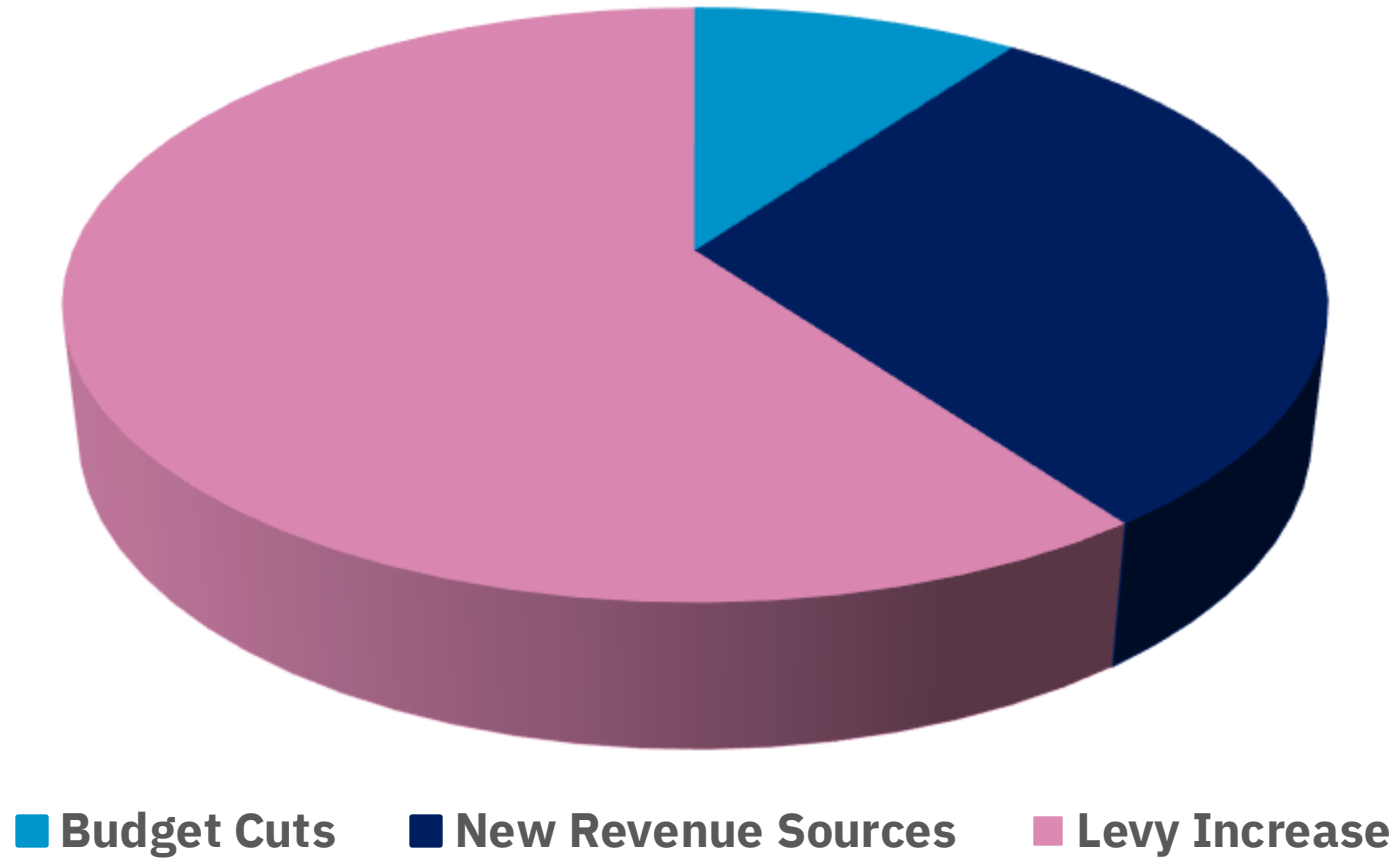
Blue Ribbon Panel: proposed solutions continued.

3. Improved Budgeting Practices

4. Technology and Process Improvements

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Three likely paths forward:



Is our goal simply to achieve
financial solvency?

Or is it to build a budget that will
allow Edmonds to continue
thriving as a **vibrant community**
for generations to come?

In order to **right-size any proposals** for revenue generation and expenditure cuts, we must first **right-size the city budget**.

In order to **right-size the city budget**, we must first agree on **what kind of Edmonds we desire**: both now, and in the future.

Essential question:

How much does it cost to run a thriving and vibrant Edmonds?

Small group breakout: visioning for a vibrant Edmonds

- What makes Edmonds special / what do I love about it?
- Where can Edmonds improve?
- What am I not willing to give up (e.g. non-negotiables)?

Exit slip

What revenue generating policies and/or cuts am I willing to see adopted to keep my non-negotiables?

What's upcoming

- Next session: Revenue generation exploration
- Future sessions:
 - Define cost to run a thriving and vibrant Edmonds
 - Revenue estimates from brainstormed list
 - Prioritization of revenue policy proposals
 - Right-sized levy discussion
 - Formal recommendation to Council and Mayor?

Thank you!

Please help us drive attendance to the next workshop:

- Spread the word through word of mouth
- Write testimonials on social media
- Post links to workshops on social media

Keep[edmonds](https://www.edmondsvibrant.org)**vibrant.org**

Keep
Edmonds
Vibrant!