



Enhancing Los Altos: A Financial Transparency Initiative

Welcome to our plan to develop a comprehensive financial measurement system and improve transparency for Los Altos. This initiative aims to empower our community with clear, accessible information about our city's fiscal health. We're taking a significant step toward more open and accountable governance by implementing industry-standard key performance indicators (KPIs) and creating a user-friendly dashboard.

Ad Hoc Committee: John Clara, Deepak Jain and Scott Ottoes

Why Transparency Matters

- Builds trust with residents.
 - Transparency fosters credibility and shows that the city values accountability.
- Enables informed decision-making.
 - When residents and stakeholders have access to clear financial data, they can provide meaningful input.
- Aligns with modern governance best practices.
 - Many leading cities use transparency as a tool to drive community engagement and efficiency.



Local Cities Leading the Way in Transparency

- Cupertino, CA: Detailed annual financial reports and public dashboards.
 - Clear summaries of [financial performance](#) are accessible to everyone.

In This Section

Budget Report

- Funding Structure
- Finance Open Data Portal
- Internal Audit
- CDTFA Audit

Community Budget Resources

- Business License, Forms & Fees
- Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Program
- Non-Profits Support Opportunities
- Community Budget Workshop
- Finance FAQ

Most Recent Budgets and Reports

- Operating Budget
- ACFR 2023-2024
(PDF, 4MB)
- Internal Audit
- OpenGov Financial Transparency Portal
- Budget Learning Library
- Capital Improvement Program Projects

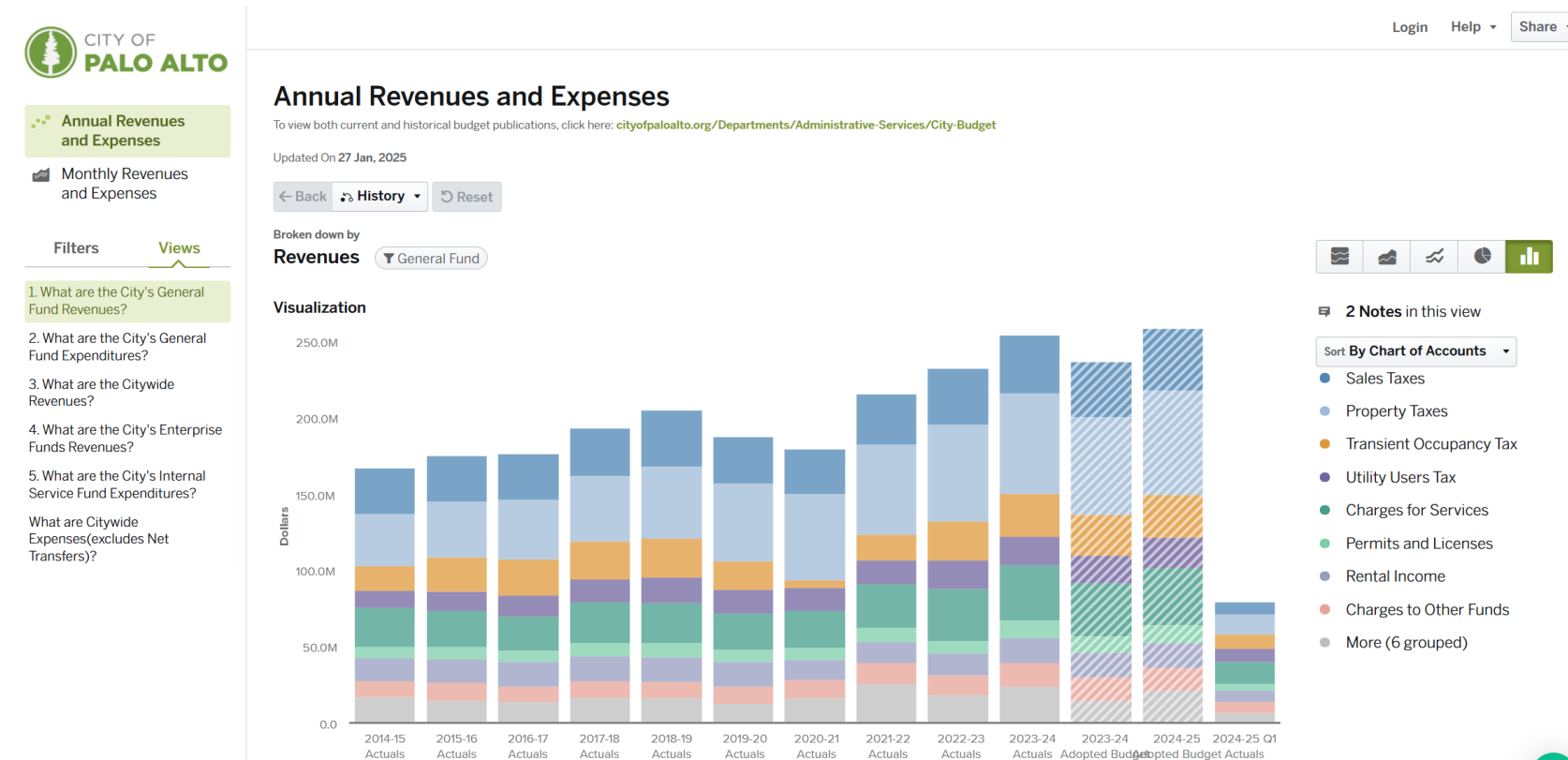
For past budgets and reports, view the [archives](#).

Archives

- Operating Budget +
- Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) +
- Budget at a Glance +
- Capital Improvement Program Budget +
- Cities Financial Transaction Reports +
- Development Impact Fee Report +

Local Cities Leading the Way in Transparency

- Palo Alto, CA: Comprehensive budget portal with open data tools.
 - Residents can explore detailed financial breakdowns using [interactive visualizations](#).



Palo Alto, Cupertino, Mountain View, Redwood City, and Sunnyvale all use the OpenGov cloud platform

Local Cities Leading the Way in Transparency

- Redwood City, CA: Easy-to-navigate budget and expenditure tracking.
 - Detailed breakdowns allow residents to understand how [funds are allocated across departments](#).

The screenshot shows the Redwood City California website's Budget Transparency Portal. The header includes the city name, navigation links (Calendar, News, Subscribe, City Events, Contact Us), a language selector, and a search bar. The main navigation menu features links for Home, About the City, City Hall, Departments, Residents, Business, and I Want To... The main content area is titled "BUDGET TRANSPARENCY PORTAL" and includes a magnifying glass icon with the text "Budget Transparency Portal". Below this are three featured budget documents: "Redwood City Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Adopted Budget", "ADOPTED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020", and "REVISED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021". The page also includes utility links for Print, Feedback, Share & Bookmark, and Font Size.

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Redwood City CALIFORNIA

CLIMATE BEST BY GOVERNMENT TEST | Partly Cloudy, 68°

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BUDGET TRANSPARENCY PORTAL

Print Feedback Share & Bookmark Font Size

Budget Transparency Portal

Redwood City Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Adopted Budget

ADOPTED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

REVISED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Welcome to the City's Budget Transparency Portal

The [Budget Transparency Portal](#), offered through OpenGov, provides the community with many views of the City's Operating Budget. We encourage you to explore budgets by fund, department, or account type; display the data as graphs or chats, download data into a spreadsheet, and more!

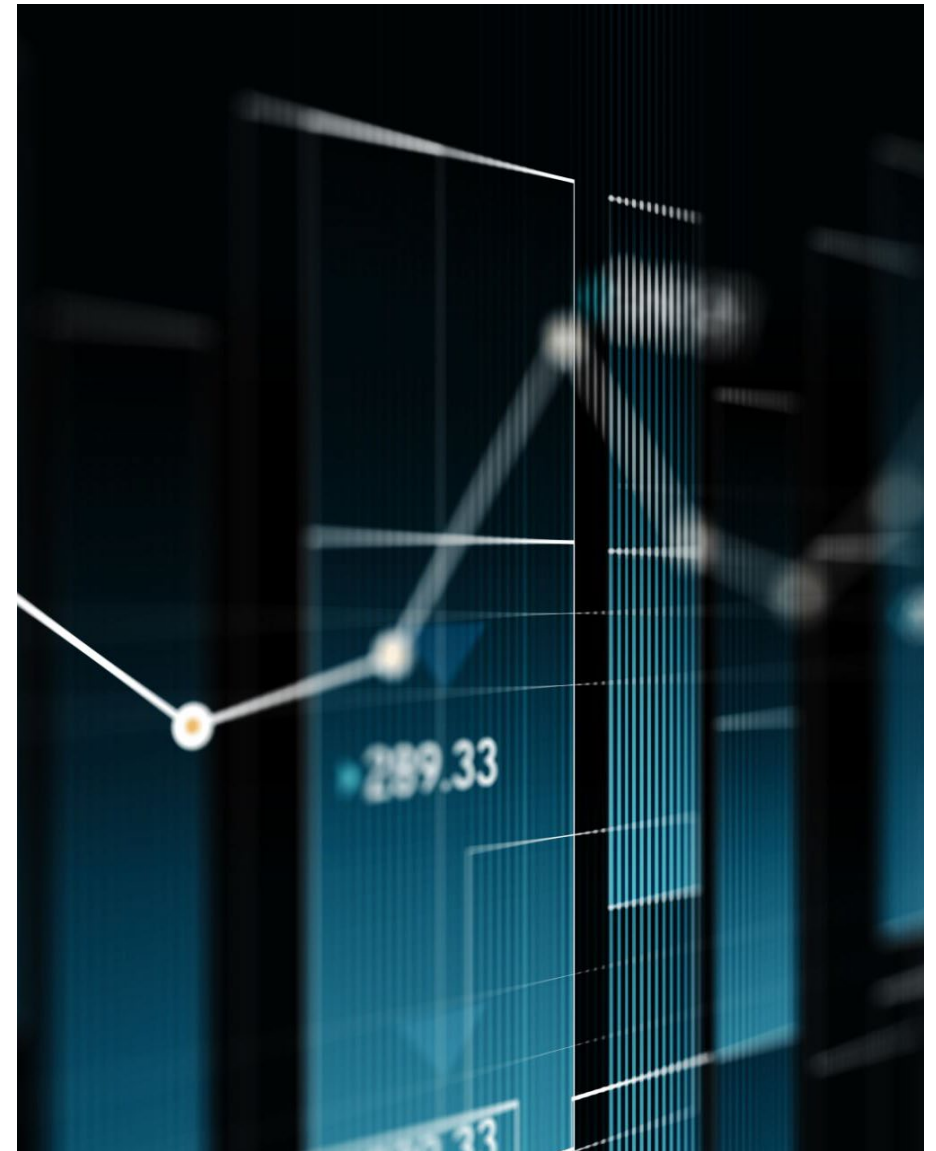


Where We Stand Today

- Financial data is available but not always accessible or intuitive for residents to navigate.
- Gaps in accessibility, timeliness, and community understanding.
- Information often lacks timely updates, which can hinder resident trust.
- Comparison with transparency best practices.
 - Cities like Palo Alto and Mountain View offer easy-to-navigate dashboards with frequent updates.

Our Proposal

- Develop a financial measurement and transparency system.
 - Create a centralized platform for all key financial data easily accessible to all stakeholders.
- Define and track key financial KPIs.
 - Metrics like Budget Variance and Property Tax Collection Rate will ensure measurable performance.
- Create a public dashboard for timely financial updates.
 - Interactive tools allow residents to explore how funds are allocated and spent.
- Regularly report progress to stakeholders.
 - Provide quarterly updates to the City Council and residents to maintain alignment and trust.





Enhancing Financial Transparency Through Data-Driven Governance

- Endorse the Financial Transparency Initiative
 - Strengthening oversight and accountability with accessible financial reporting.
- Empower Stakeholders with Clear Financial Insights
 - Facilitating informed decision-making to uphold Los Altos' fiscal health.
- Position Los Altos as a Leader in Municipal Finance
 - Setting a regional standard for proactive, transparent governance.

Questions and Feedback