

# Unlocking Fort Wayne's Potential: Reforming Our Budget Process



“ I have fought to reduce our debt and scale back tax increases. I will return every dollar possible to Fort Wayne taxpayers. ”



## Why is it a problem? What will you do?

For several decades Fort Wayne has used a budget process that looks at our revenue and compares it to what we spent last year and increases the budget proportionately. I am taking a proactive approach that values your tax dollars.

Move Fort Wayne to a zero-based budget process. Every city department examines what they are doing and why they are doing it and provides different options of service levels to help city council members prioritize city services.



## How is it different?

Every household and business in Fort Wayne puts priorities on their spending figures out how their budget matches up with their priorities. Our city budget does not follow this approach and it has not in some time. By reviewing what we do as a city and how we do it and inviting residents to be a part of the budget discussions, Tom's process increases transparency, which leads to cutting unnecessary spending and delivering savings to taxpayers.

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## How has it worked in other places?

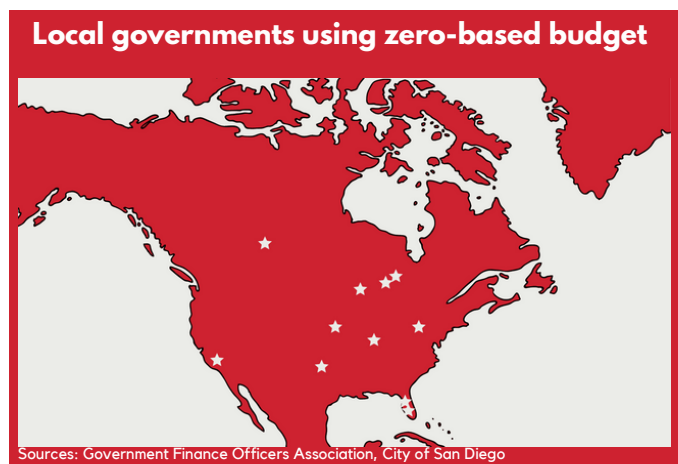
This process has been implemented in other communities across the country. Most notably, large counties in Florida like Hillsborough and Manatee as well as cities like Naperville, Ill.; Edmonton, Alb.; and London, Ont. In these communities this process has helped them to identify what programs need more attention and what areas could be cut, but it takes a concerted effort to make it happen.

## How will it work?

The budget process starts on day one of my administration. I already have a process in place to hire leaders committed to reforming the budget process and delivering value to Fort Wayne residents.

In the spring we will start reaching out to you for feedback on city programs and asking for your ideas on what we should be emphasizing or what programs might be less important.

Finally each department prepares budget options and we collaborate with your representatives on city council to determine which level of investment makes the most sense for the next year.



## Expected Impact

State law limits city council's ability to amend the mayor's budget. In spite of that, we have already cut departments like Weights & Measures. This process will empower city council to be better representatives, streamline Fort Wayne city services, identify sources of waste, and generate enough savings which allows me to cut your taxes.