

COUNTY BUDGET ADVOCACY

***CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION***



**Mike Russo, Associate Director of Equity in Public
Funds**

Advancement Project CA



 <p>Educational Equity</p>	 <p>Equity In Public Funds</p>	 <p>Health Equity</p>	 <p>Political Voice</p>
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Agenda

- LA County's budget process
- What's in the LA County budget?
 - Revenues
 - Expenditures
- Budget advocacy



LA County's budget process

Who is responsible?



Sachi Hamai, L.A.
County CEO



L.A. County has
roughly **50** major
departments and
agencies

ADVANCEMENT
PROJECT

County Chief Executive Officer:

- ❑ Issues budget guidelines to departments based on fiscal projects
- ❑ Reviews and consolidates departments' budget requests
- ❑ Develops budget recommendations based on those requests
- ❑ Prepares and submits recommended budget to Supervisors
- ❑ Responds to Supervisors' requests for reports and amendments

Departments and agencies:

- ❑ Develop requests for their departments
- ❑ Work with County CEO on Recommended Budget

Who is responsible?



5 members of L.A. County Board of Supervisors



Board of Supervisors:

- Holds hearings on recommended budget
- Proposes changes to recommended budget
- Adopt budget (by majority)
- Hires, fires, and oversees CEO

The Community:

- Gives input at public hearings
- Provides community stories, data, and information
- Meet with government officials to make sure needs are being addressed

Budget Process

**** County Fiscal Year is July 1 – June 30 ****

Date	Event
Winter and early Spring	Departments develop their budget requests based on instructions from CEO
January	Governor issues proposed state budget
Spring	Departments finalize their budget requests and submit them to the CEO
Mid-April	CEO develops Recommended Budget and submits it to the Board of Supervisors and the public
Mid-May	Supervisors hold budget hearings; Governor issues May Revise
By June 30	Supervisors deliberate, amend, and ultimately adopt budget
By September 30	Supplemental Budget

Advocacy Opportunities

- **Budget research** to analyze proposals and develop asks
- **Meet** with Supervisors, CEO, and Departments to share community priorities
- **Participate** in public hearings
- **Mobilize, Communicate, and Organize**

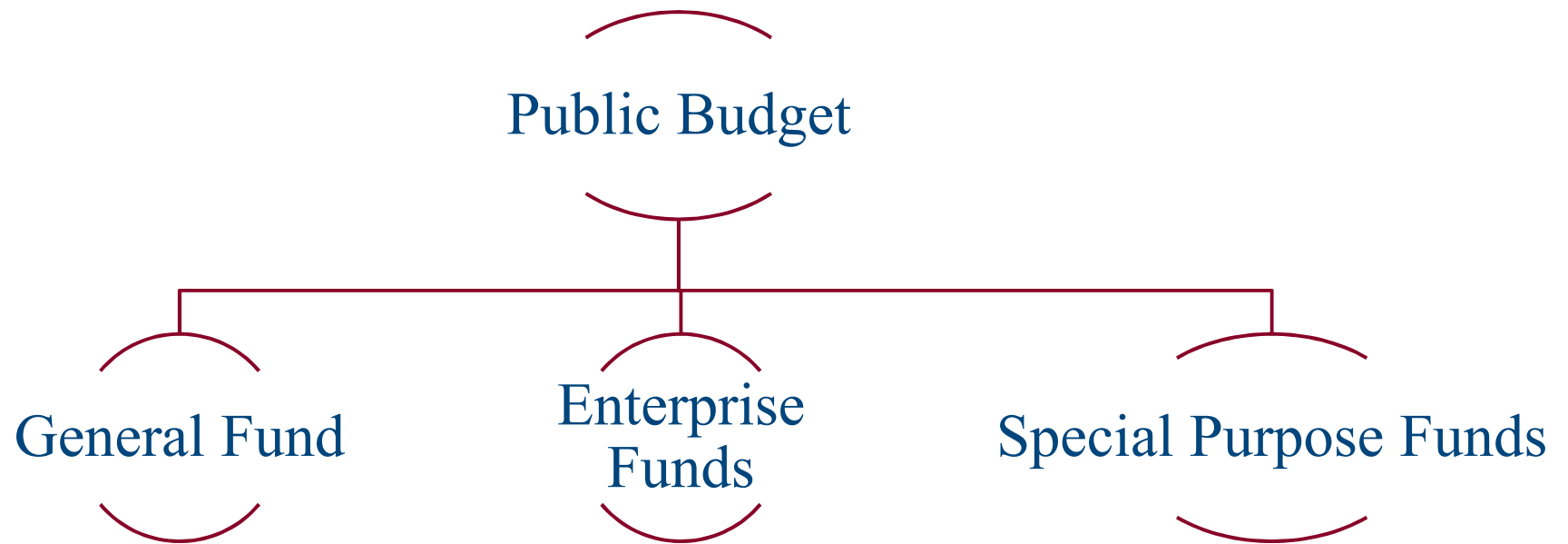
Advocacy calendar

Date	Event
Winter and early Spring	Departments develop their budget requests based on instructions from CEO Meet with Supervisors, CEO, and Departments; budget research
January	Governor issues proposed state budget
Spring	Departments finalize their budget requests and submit them to the CEO
Mid-April	CEO develops Recommended Budget and submits it to the Board of Supervisors and the public Analyze proposal, meet with Supervisors
Mid-May	Supervisors hold budget hearings; Governor issues May Revise Turnout, lobbying, media, organizing...
By June 30	Supervisors deliberate, amend, and ultimately adopt budget Victory! (hopefully)
By September 30	Supplemental Budget Second chance



What's in the LA County budget?

Fund Structure



Departments by Fund Category

- **General Fund Departments** are primarily supported by the General Fund – Sheriff, Health/Public Health, Probation, Parks, etc.
- **Special Fund Departments** are primarily supported by special funds, including special districts and assessments – Fire, often Libraries
- **Enterprise or Proprietary Funds** support Departments that operate like a business: Hospitals, Airports, Water...

Key Definitions

Local revenues (or locally-generated revenues):

- County's discretionary, flexible revenues (mostly from property taxes)

Net County Cost (or NCC):

- Amount a county is spending from local revenues on a specific activity
- Best reflection of county's priorities

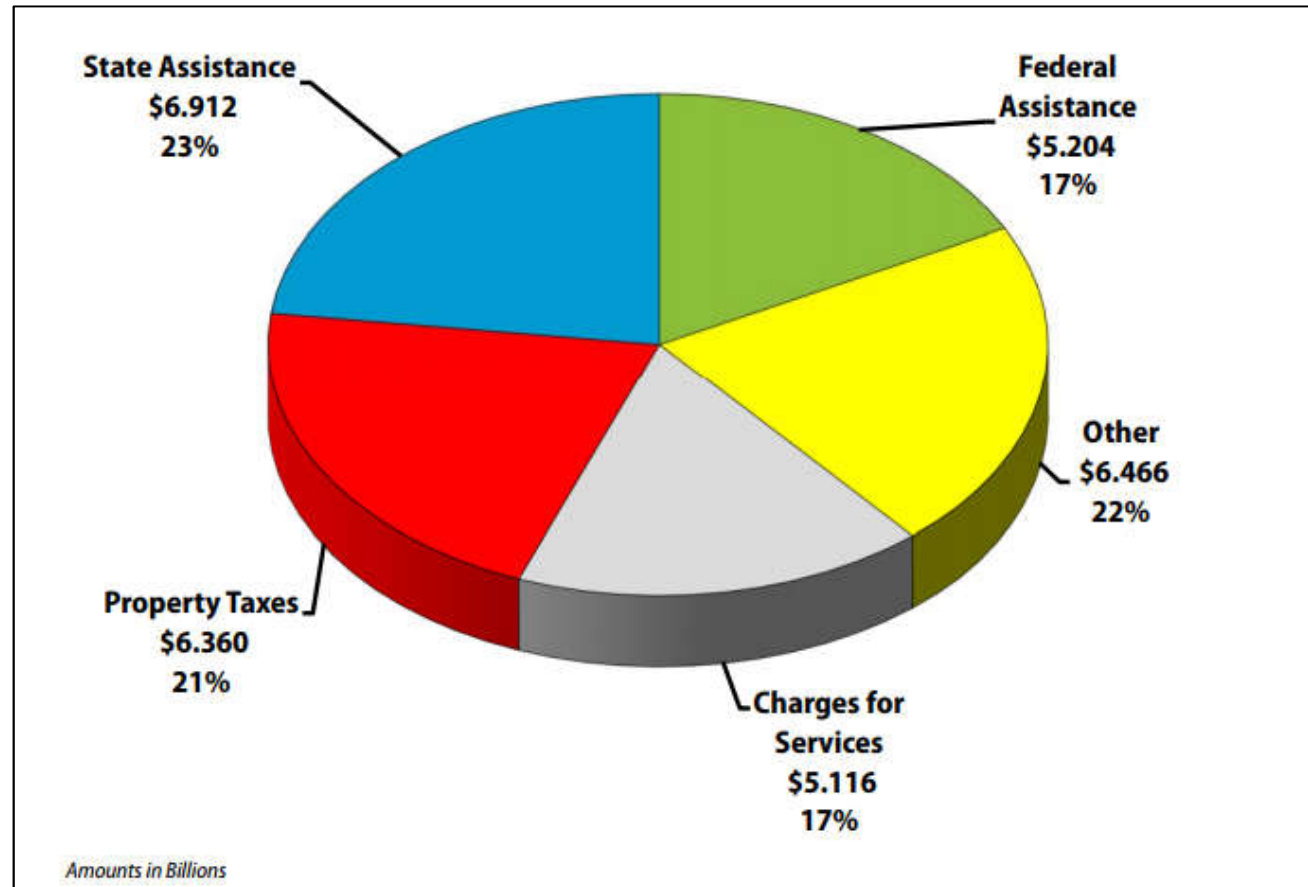


Revenues

FY18 Revenue - LA

All FY18 LA
County
Revenues by
Source

Total = \$30
Billion

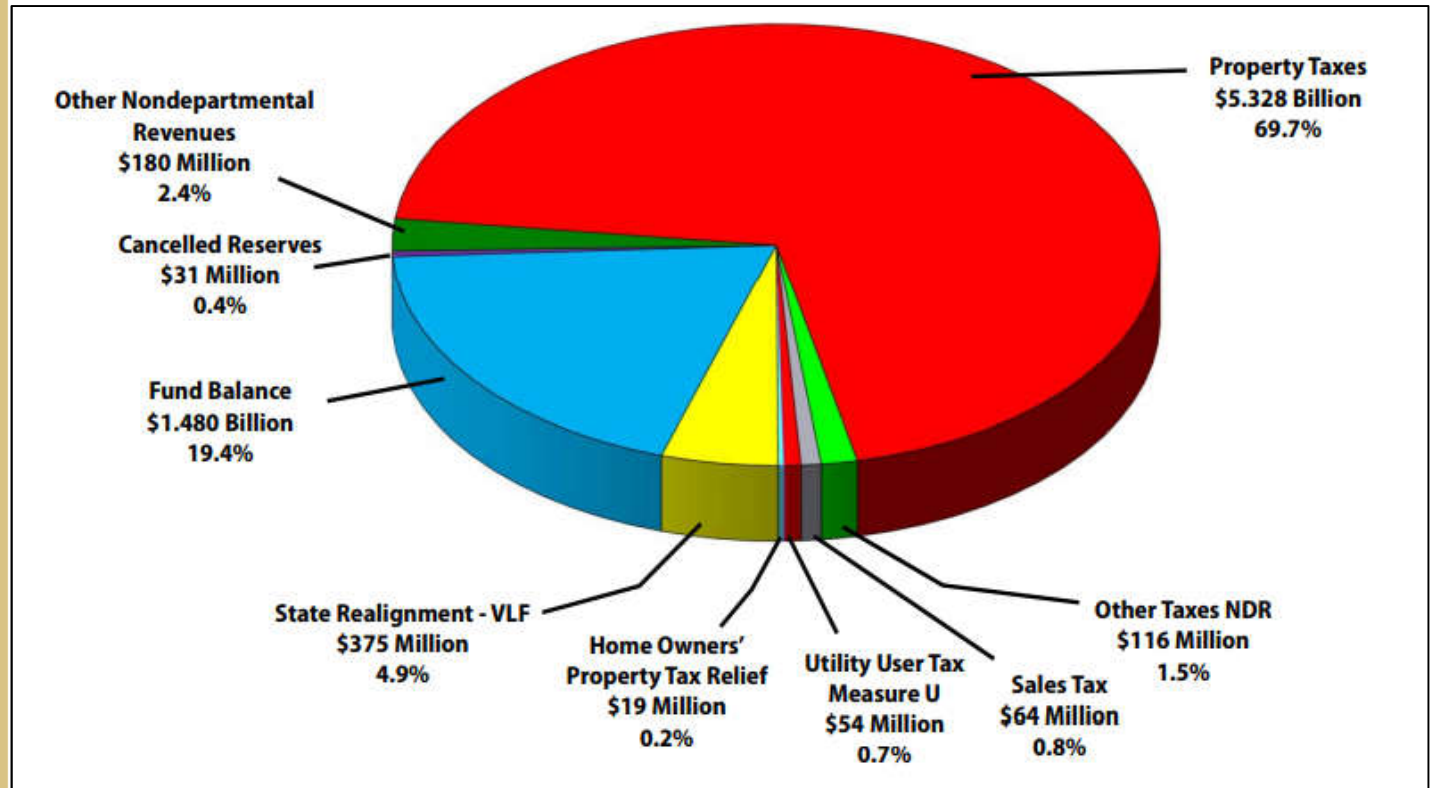


FY18 Revenue - LA

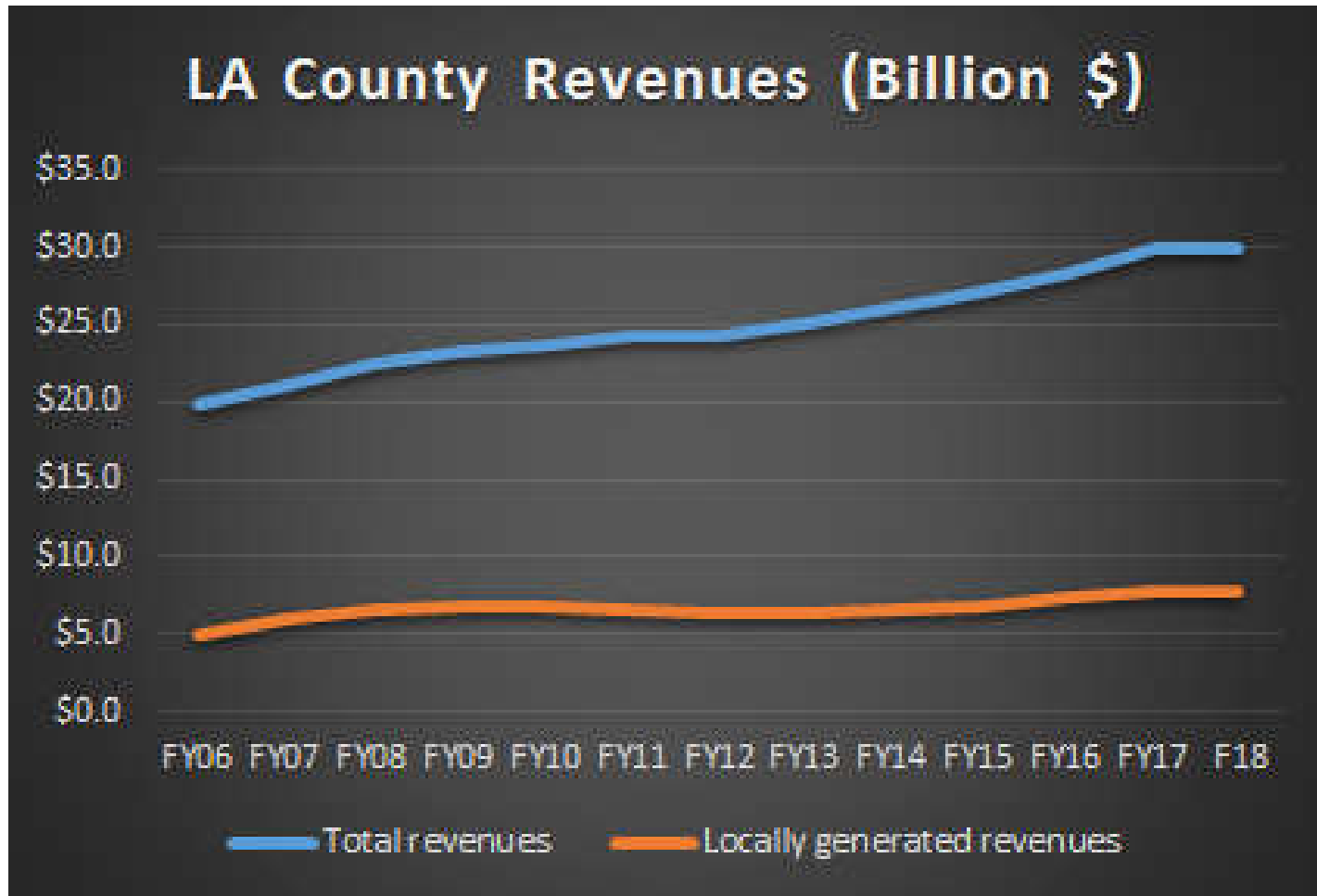
FY18 LA
County Local
Revenues

Total = \$7.7
Billion

This is what
pays for Net
County Cost



Revenue History



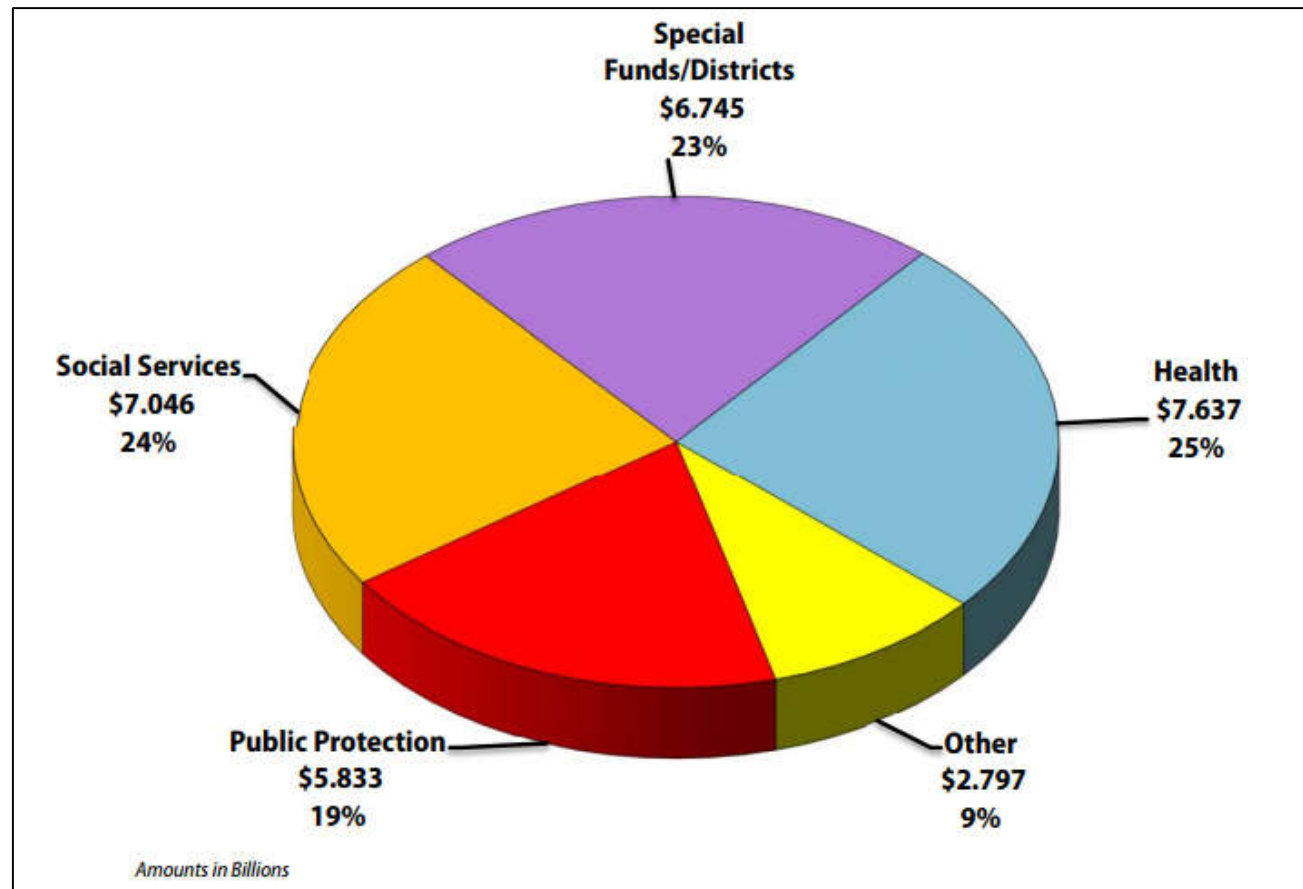


Expenditures

FY18 Expenditures - LA

All FY18 LA
County
Expenditures
by Category

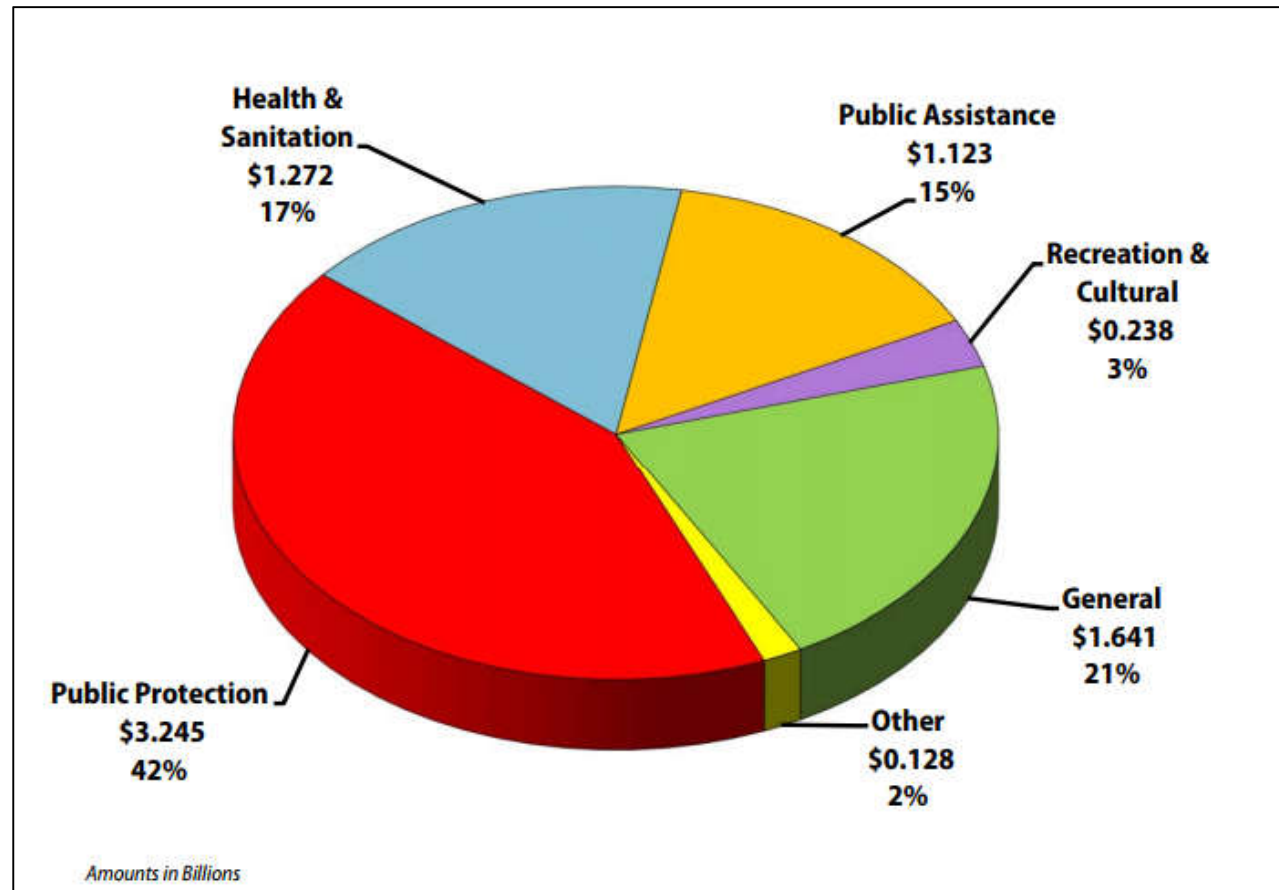
Total = \$30
Billion



FY18 Expenditures - LA

FY18 LA Net
County Cost
by Category

Total = \$7.7
Billion





Budget advocacy

Budget analysis and advocacy

- Crystallize advocacy ask
 - Generate cost estimates
 - Find potential funding sources
 - Identify lack of transparency

- Inform strategy and identify best engagement points

- Provide talking points and ammo
 - History of underinvestment
 - Spending money on counterproductive things
 - Etc.

Advocacy points

- Budgeting is a year-round process
 - ▣ Yearly cycle starts early
 - ▣ Big policy often happens in the Supplemental
 - ▣ Look for what's earmarked in the Provisional Financing Uses
- There are a lot of black boxes
 - ▣ Often the county doesn't know the answer to pretty basic questions
 - ▣ Geographic allocation is largely invisible
- Political will can cut through a lot of red tape



Questions?