

City of Los Angeles 50/50 – 2017 Budget Proposal

*As Presented by Bill Watkins
Candidate for Mayor*



Good is the Enemy of the Best:

***For A City that Sparkles, Shines,
And is a beacon of hope—
an Example to other cities
Nation-Wide***

Message from the Candidate:

I have been blessed in life with two curses:

1. A modern, liberal education in the style of John Stuart Mill. You know, the Englishman who went crazy as a result of being pushed too hard.
2. Alcoholism.

How can curses be a blessing?

When it's time to serve others and run for something like the post of Mayor of Los Angeles:

1. *Education* does help as a background to writing, reading, summing and deciding important matters.
2. Having almost died of alcoholism, having friends that died; discovering a Higher Power and a way out of that illness...

Has given me a certain *clarity* and soundness of purpose. Has simplified my outlook on what needs to happen and "get done" in life.

It is tempting to complicate things, and look for complicated solutions to simple problems.

My education, and my recovery from alcoholism tell me in bold letters:

Keep things simple, do the important things. And leave the rest for Higher Powers (and the *Private Sector!!!*) to sort out today.

Government's Role/Rolling Out My 50-50 Budget Plan:

Government has a long history of doing for groups of people what they would rather not do themselves.

And there is logic and sense in... *logic and convenience*. In systems that work, save time, increase the joy of our lives!

Government's Two Main Roles: To Provide Citizens with Security and Infrastructure

1. SECURITY:

Security to the persons and properties of the governed is so obviously the design and end of civil government, that to attempt a logical proof of it would be like burning tapers at noonday, to assist the sun in enlightening the world...

--John Hancock

You remember John Hancock, right?

The one with the big signature on the Declaration of Independence? That signature that told the British: Here I am, come and get me!!!

That same bold fellow, with wealth and title and much to lose—who gave it all up with one signature. Risked everything for Independence. Justice. Right...

And so... **SECURITY.**

I agree with John Hancock, and place security at the top of the L.A. Budget. Something Mayor Eric Garcetti rightly has done, as well!!

But I go farther than his proposed thirty-seven percent (on certain conditions).

I propose that **Fifty Percent** of the budget of this city go into Security—Law, obedience to it, Law Enforcement and Law Education.

*****HOWEVER:**

For LAPD to be awarded such an incredible endowment, I need changes in their practices, immediately.

They must cease to be a killing force, delve deeper than ever before into Non-lethal police techniques, Courtesy and service.

10,000 police officers is a fine number to spread throughout the city, enforcing law. But of those, *only 1000 should be lethally trained and/or armed.*

The remaining 9000 would be trained in the London model. Non-lethal, courteous, the majority of which tasked to Foot-Patrols.

EVERY LAW ON THE BOOKS WOULD BE ENFORCED. Littering citations would be handed out for cigarette butts thrown into the street, sidewalks or gutters.

Citations would be written for riding a bike on sideWALKS.

Children under the age of eighteen would be cited for not complying with Vehicle Codes requiring that a helmet be worn when riding wheeled toys.

Citations would be handed out for drinking alcohol out of doors in public places.

The officers would be there, walking, patrolling—Trained in non-lethal, respectful law enforcement.

Trouble them or brandish killing weapons, and on-call SWAT-level officers would be ready to intervene.

LAPD and other Helicopter programs need review and possible termination—at least over residential areas.

There is no logic in adding to violent crime, the crime of NOISE POLLUTION.

Helicopters and low-flying aircraft need review. With cooperation from the FAA, police agencies and law-makers in Congress, **WE MUST BRING QUIET AND BEAUTY BACK TO AREAS CITIES HAVE POLLUTED.**

So to sum: LAPD and Security deserve fifty percent of the budget of our city, *but on the condition* that they reform to Enforce Every Law on the Books with a majority Non-lethal, non-paramilitary force.

The police in this and most cities nation-wide have become standing armies, lording over the citizenry with lethal weapons, pouncing on dissension with lethal force.

What was objectionable to the Colonists—especially in Massachusetts—leading up to our revolt against England is commonplace, unfortunately on American streets, including ours in L.A.

The great Patriot, Joseph Warren, spoke out against standing armies:

Soldiers are taught to consider arms as the only arbiters by which every dispute is to be decided between contending states; they are instructed implicitly to obey their commanders, without inquiring into the justice of the cause they are engaged to support: hence it is, that they are ever to be dreaded as the ready engines of tyranny and oppression. And it is too observable that they are prone to introduce the same mode of decision in the disputes of individuals, and from thence have

*often arisen great animosities between them and the inhabitants,
who, whilst in a naked defenceless state, are frequently
insulted and abused by an armed soldiery.*

Our Paramilitary “police” fit too many of the above characteristics now. For our police to get the Fifty Percent budget allocation I propose they get, *THEY WILL HAVE TO CHANGE TO BE A LESS LETHAL, COURTEOUS GROUP OF CIVIL SERVANTS*—a more people-friendly community workforce out patrolling the streets and sidewalks on FOOT as much as on the road to **truly enforce law.**

(Not just when they are *called*, but to be out in numbers to PREVENT crime, misdemeanors and violent crimes alike!)

Now to Government’s Second major role, and the recipient of the Other fifty percent allocation of the city budget, if I was elected Mayor:

2. INFRASTRUCTURE:

This is not rocket science, and it **IS NOT BIG BUSINESS ON WHICH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THOSE CLOSE TO THEM ARE TO BE MADE FAT** while other hard-working citizens suffer.

We’re talking: Roads, Sidewalks, Gutters, Storm Drains and their repairs/maintenance...

Cleaning, Code Enforcement, Animal Care and Enforcement of Animal Codes.

When safe and free of mass crime, government must provide the infrastructure **FOR YOU TO SUCCEED IN YOUR BUSINESS.**

When I read Mr. Garcetti’s Budget Proposal for 2015/16, I smell “profit,” and attempts by government to be a successful **Business.**

This is the wrong attitude for Government—one a John Adams would rebuke, and Jefferson as well—Jefferson especially wary of Military and the temptation for strong nations to conquer others:

“If there be one principle more deeply rooted than any other in the mind of every American, it is that we should have nothing to do with conquest.” —TJ

***Speaking of which, *“Veterans” would get no special treatment or consideration in my budget, as long as they come from a culture of killing and learning to kill.*

I stand not with the Second Amendment and a perverse “right” to Kill and call murder self-defense; Rather... I support the 6th Commandment of Moses from God, and Condemn ALL killing—whatever the attempted “justification.”

When I see the military as a proper defense tool, with non-lethal defense weapons similar to those the Police should use—and an attitude that supports the **United Nations** above ourselves with the aim of World Peace *not* domination:

Then I will be happy to reward Veterans in any way that seems fitting to good, non-lethal service to our country and the world.

Before getting detailed with *DROPS* in my proposed budget, a single item blares out as symbolic of government waste:

Government involvement in supporting a “City Zoo.”

It is to me laughable, and would be the joke of the week to have presented to John Adams’ government, that funds be appropriated from taxpayers to put wild animals in captivity for people to gawk at for money.

Side enterprises like Zoos and anything like them should be dropped off the city budget now and forever.

Government provides SECURITY and INFRASTRUCTURE. (that’s a period)

For the rest, friends: *Do it yourself* with the roads, sidewalks and safe passage to your dreams an improved police force and government will help you to realize.

To paraphrase JFK: ask not from us what you can and should do for yourselves.

If you love wild animals, and are sure it would be a good business to catch them, contain them and display them: DO IT, as long as Security and Infrastructure are not bothered...

Getting Deeper in DROPS/Possible Drops:

1. “Tourism Development?” City Self-Promotion?

Wouldn’t a beautiful, safe, clean city speak for itself?

I am in favor of Dropping any Government involvement in Tourist Trade.

2. “Cultural Affairs” is NOT a Government Affair, as it has nothing to do with Security and Infrastructure.

I am an artist myself, but rely on the Private Sector protected by government law enforcement/roads/security—to achieve whatever I want to achieve as an artist.

Cultural Affairs should be DROPPED as a Government agency immediately, to make room for needed Law Enforcement growth and Reform; and better, safer roads/sidewalks/gutters/Drains.

3. “Disability?” Health CARE?? Never. Every person in the world has a different view of WHAT HEALTH is and/or means.

Therefore, Government should have nothing to do with it.

Roads, Infrastructure, Police, Security = Government.

*Amusement, hi-tech business, “health” and disability funds?? **Go to the Private Sector please.***

(And we’ll keep providing the safe roads...)

4. “Economic and Workforce Development?” – If it is regarding anything besides security and infrastructure, STRIKE IT.

IT IS TIME GOVERNMENT GETS ITS GREEDY PAWS OUT OF PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Stick to Security and Infrastructure.

5. “El Pueblo de Los Angeles” – give it the same treatment as any other community in L.A. and *drop it from special status.*

6. “Employee Relations Board?” Is government a “business?” No.

Good-bye bureaucracy. You have dug us into deep enough a hole as it is... *Security and Infrastructure. That’s it.** As an employee of the city, just know: if you are dedicated to those two things, good—jobs are open and yours for the taking and having.

If interested in other things besides city security and infrastructure, *Government is not for you.*

Our service to the community in the areas of Security and Infrastructure is rightly compensated by taxing the people.

MAY WE SEEK NO MORE outside, or side profit schemes.

Government should operate off taxes and taxes alone to fund only **two things**:

Security and Infrastructure. The Rest is yours to decide!!! #Freedom under the law.

7. “Housing and Community Investment?” Emergency Shelters, yes—if needed; but may we be Big Brother no more; let the Private Sector rise up and build, profit and build!! (Government will provide your roads and security, no more than that—no less...)

Getting a theme here??? **SECURITY and INFRASTRUCTURE**. That’s It!!!

ALSO DROPPED:

1. “*Information Technology...*” This has Nothing to do with Security and building better roads and sidewalks, so scrap it! Survey by getting out and WALKING this City!!
2. “*Neighborhood Empowerment*” – SCRAP it **NOW**; a waste of time, a phony way to falsely appease neighborhoods by letting them play around with thirty or forty thousand dollars a year.

ONCE THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES PROPERLY TO BE A GOVERNMENT AGAIN AND NOT A “BUSINESS:”

Every neighborhood will have the security and infrastructure to decide and work for their own dreams and visions, to make them a reality.

Re: “Ethics” and “General Services:”

Ethics Commission needs to **monitor Elections**—THAT NO PRIVATE MONEY BE SPENT ON THEM.

“General Services” has many vital roles as a city department. As Mayor, I would ask that each sub-department of General Services focus themselves on one of two areas or both:

SECURITY and INFRASTRUCTURE.

Any part of GSD that does not help the city in the areas of Security or Infrastructure will be cut.

To conclude:

Government is Government, life is life—

When Government tries to be too much for too many people, it FAILS to do the basic things it MUST do:

Provide the citizenry with Security and Infrastructure.

Our graffiti and bad sidewalks tell the whole story of L.A. in a nutshell:

Our Law Enforcement/"Security" is BAD.

And our Infrastructure is Failing: sidewalks/roads poor in poor areas.

I deem it now time to *drop* any Big Brother program not having to do with Security or Infrastructure;

Drop any "business" schemes and "government" side ventures as evil and corrupt.

I'll add to that, that **NO PUBLIC EMPLOYEE CARRYING OUT SERVICE TO INCREASE THE SECURITY AND BETTER THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF LOS ANGELES SHOULD MAKE OVER 100,000 DOLLARS A YEAR IN SALARY.**

And I'll re-iterate a point made regarding Election Ethics:

PRIVATE CAMPAIGN SPENDING MUST STOP.

It is time FOR IDEAS – NOT money, to win seats and jobs in government.

\$Millions—even \$Billions will be saved as we cut Big Brother and "Business" schemes out of L.A. Government!!

Yours Truly,



Bill Watkins for Mayor, 2017