The Fair Budget Coalition has created this infographic to display the changes to the FY 2021 budget after the DC Council's first vote. The Mayor's investment is indicated in blue while the DC Council's additions will be displayed in orange. Each recommendation include FBC recommendation ask along with the funding need for full implementation. Please be sure to check out our revenue recommendations on pages 4-5 to find out how the council voted to raise revenue.

**Housing Security:** The DC Council has an obligation to ensure low-income DC residents have access to affordable housing at all income levels. For the past few years, we have seen insubstantial investments to 0-30% AMI housing units, while witnessing the over investments in luxury units. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the DC Council only halted evictions & late fees for DC residents, but with an expected wave of evictions, growing re-entry population and already historical neglect to public housing, we challenged the DC Council to use bold actions to house and secure DC residents struggling to find an affordable home.
Community Safety: While the Fair Budget Coalition has found effective use in reinvesting tax dollars within MPD’s half a billion budget, this year we have seen a nationwide call to #DefundMPD & make #PoliceFreeSchools. We firmly believe safety is ensured by tackling the root causes of crime and safeguarding Black and brown communities with evidence based approached outside of the traditional policing model. Finally, after analyzing the Mayor’s FY 2021 Budget, we noticed massive cuts to critical programming that needed financial restoration.

Independent Office of the Ombudsman for Child and Family Services: Our Ask $600K; Additional needed $600K.

Domestic Violence Crisis Shelter: Our ask $3M.

Domestic Violence Enhancement Services: Our Ask $2M; Additional needed $2M.

*Defund & Recapture available $79M from DC police’s $500M budget, to create #PoliceFreeSchools and heal underfunded communities.

DC Council recaptured $15M from the Mayor’s FY2021 proposed budget increase to MPD.

DC Council refused to reallocate available $64M from MPD’s budget to underfunded Black and Brown communities.

Food Access and Security: For generations Black residents in Ward 7 & 8 have been neglected in the areas of food justice and equity. With a population of 100K combined between two Wards, they only hold 3 grocery stores. While Council and Mayor spend taxpayer dollars traveling to business and retail conventions to return empty handed, we have found effective solutions to empower Ward 7 & 8 residents to build, manage and uplift grocery stores in their communities. In addition, we look to increase WIC participation for mothers of newborn babies.

WIC Outreach: Our ask 250K; Additional funding needed $175K.

Grocery Retail Funding: Our ask $11M Additional funding needed $11M.

*Recommendation added post Mayoral Budget release
Economic Justice: Our pre-COVID budget platform for economic justice focuses on creating equitable protections for residents, DC employees, childcare facilities and excluded workers. As COVID-19 hit Washington DC, we began to witness a growing economic gap between employees of the traditional economy and excluded workers. The DC Council has full acknowledgement that immigrant families were left with no income during the pandemic and in their first vote, threw crumbs at the community hit the hardest.

*Excluded Workers Cash Assistance:  
Our ask 30M; Additional funding needed by 1.5M.

Healthy Futures: Our ask $1.5M; Additional funding needed $175K.

Healthy Steps: Our ask $300K.

Healthcare Alliance Recertification: Our ask $35M; Additional funding needed $29M.

Healthcare: We urged the DC Council to remove the barriers for immigrant families to access healthcare. In addition, we rallied around mental health supports for students, and babies. As we analyzed the Mayor’s budget, we notice massive cuts to the Department of Behavior Health and also called upon the Council to restore that funding.

*Restore Department of Behavioral Health Cuts $9M: Fully Restored by Council.

*Recommendation added post Mayoral Budget release
FY 2021 Budget: After DC Council's First Vote

Fair Taxes and Public Deals: This year we provided the DC Council with a wealth of recommendations to raise revenue during the economic downfall and global pandemic. We urged them to bring about a #JustRecovery through looking at non-essential spending and restorative tax increases to balance the scales for low-income Black and brown families. During the first vote, the DC Council focused on the following revenue growth ideas presented by the Fair Budget Coalition.

Repeal to The Qualified High Technology Company Incentive (QHTC) raises $24M.

Chairman Mendelson intended to scale back the QHTC in his budget yet, voted against Councilmember Nadeau’s amendment to further scale it back.

Increase Taxes on Wealthiest Residents raises: $186M

Remove School Security Contract from MPD raises: $29M

Delay Corporate Tax Cuts raises: 7.4M

For more information, email us at info@fairbudget.org
Fair Taxes and Public Deals: There are still plenty of ways for the DC Council to raise money during the pandemic. Year after year, DC Council ask residents how will the city pay for critical programming and policies that uplift racial equity. Below are 4 additional revenue ideas that have not been discussed or voted on by the DC Council.

There are millions in tax giveaways to the wealthy, stop asking us "where's the money?"

Fully Eliminate Tax Breaks for Investments in Opportunity Zones (OZ). The Council should fully decouple the District’s corporate franchise and personal income tax code from the federal law that created new capital gains tax breaks for investments in designated OZs. There is already considerable national evidence that the program is turning out to be a windfall for rich investors rather than likely to benefit low-income zone residents it was intended to help. Further, OZ programs could fuel displacement and gentrification, and they are under federal investigation for enriching political supporters.

Eliminate the Qualified Supermarket Tax Incentive and Redirect Savings into Food Security Programs. This program provides poorly targeted exemptions for specific taxes and fees, and the CFO said they haven’t been helpful in bringing quality grocery stores to food-insecure areas of DC that need them the most—that is, in Wards 7 and 8. Lawmakers should eliminate the tax break and redirect the funding to programs that actually improve food security in food-insecure areas, such as a DC Good Food Investment Fund that prioritizes resources for projects located in Wards 7 and 8. The District spent almost $29 million on this incentive between 2010 to 2017.

Require Gig Employers Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes by Prohibiting Misclassification that Leaves Employees Vulnerable. Rather than pay their lawful taxes, gig companies are forcing the public to foot the bill for badly-needed benefits for their workers. To date, ride-hailing giants Uber and Lyft have not paid into DC or federal-level UI programs for these workers. DC should hold these and other companies responsible for unpaid unemployment insurance taxes, ensure that workers receive the highest-level of available benefits under traditional unemployment insurance, and revise the worker misclassification law to clarify the employer obligations gig companies are currently evading.

Use DC’s “Rainy Day Fund” and Redirect Fund Balances: The District should consider using more of our $1 billion-plus reserves in FY 2021 to address immediate needs. We save for economic storms. Now that we’re in one, leaders should use more reserves and waive the local restrictive rules that keep some of the funds off-limits. If lawmakers wish to replenish the reserves sooner, they can use new COVID-19 federal funds to reimburse qualifying immediate expenses or they could enact new revenue increases and direct a portion of them into the reserves once the economy hits certain economic recovery triggers.

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