

## NYC November Ballot Initiative: Create a Civic Engagement Commission and have Citywide Participatory Budgeting

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A short highlight about a simple - and yet complex - question for NYC voters: Do you want to establish a new engagement body, within city government, and a specific kind of outreach and

participation - on a slice of the overall city government budget?

Here is the start of the ballot question:

***Question # 2: Civic Engagement Commission***

*This proposal would amend the City Charter to:*

*Create a Civic Engagement Commission that would implement, no later than the City Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020, a Citywide participatory budgeting program established by the Mayor to promote participation by City residents in making recommendations for projects in their communities;*

A [report](#) by the New York City Charter Revision Commission covers this question and two other ballot questions for this fall.

The advocacy group [Participatory Budgeting Project offers a summary and support the ballot initiative](#). Unsurprisingly, there was a public hearing process about the ballot question proposal, including this local press coverage of a [June public gathering](#).

We'll find out how New York voters decide. But for now, should this kind of decision be left to voters? Is this a good way to use ballot initiatives to both set up a new piece of the city's engagement approach AND to specify a particular area - the city budget - for a new form of engagement?