



CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA

Gateway to the Gulf

MICHAEL J. YAKES, Mayor

JUDY RYERSON, Councilmember, Ward 1
MICHELE KING, Vice Mayor, Councilmember, Ward 2

ROBERT E. WORTHINGTON, Councilmember, Ward 3
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<http://www.ci.gulfport.fl.us>

A downturn in the economy has made the City of Gulfport's FY 2009-2010 budget process one of the most challenging in memory. In an ongoing effort to garner public input in the City's budget process, City Council suggested the creation of an Ad Hoc Citizen Budget Committee for budget year 2010.

A unanimous recommendation from the Budget Committee's efforts was the need to generate a wide ranging method to expand the involvement of both City of Gulfport residents and City employees in providing input and assistance in seeking new and creative ideas to generate new revenues and reduce costs. The goal of the Committee's recommendation is to generate many novel ideas thru a City wide survey of both residents and employees for reducing expenditures or increasing revenues in order to maintain the present high level of city services that residents and visitors enjoy.

Both City Council and its management team continue to focus on maintaining a high level of city services in the current environment of shrinking revenues and continued increased costs while maintaining the current millage rate as it is applied for property tax collections. With City property tax revenues decreasing at the same rate as home values it is more imperative now than ever that the City find new and innovative ways to produce new recurring revenue sources and while reducing costs associated with providing a consistently high level of city services.

Attached, please find the survey developed by the Citizen Budget Committee, this survey is being sent to residents of Gulfport and is provided to all City employees for their participation. The survey is also available on the City's website: www.ci.gulfport.fl.us/Special_Documents/Budget_survey.pdf.

All surveys must be returned by July 6, 2009 for inclusion in the FY 2010 budget process. Surveys should be returned to the City of Gulfport City Hall - Administrative Services office, attention: Dan Carpenter, Administrative Services Director, located at 2401 53rd Street South, the same location where utility bills are collected and paid. Questions or inquiries surrounding this surveying effort should be directed to the Administrative Services Directors office at 893-1014, or by e-mail at dcarpenter@ci.gulfport.fl.us.

Results of this survey will be compiled and reported to City Council for consideration during the City's budget workshops scheduled for July/August 2009. Thank you in advance for your efforts in this process, together with the assistance of both residents and City employees of the City of Gulfport, we will most assuredly develop and input a balanced budget that maintains the existing high current service levels citywide.

Sincerely,

Jim O'Reilly
Interim City Manager

KEEP GULFPORT GREAT!

Help City Council Decide How to Balance the Budget

Gulfport City Council and staff welcome your helpful suggestions for lowering expenses or increasing income in any or all City Departments. All ideas will be considered by Council and department staff. **Please print legibly.**

Leisure Services (Casino, Recreation Center, Library, Marina, Neighborhood Center Senior Center/GEMS, Parks, Trolley, and Waterfront).

Public Safety (Police and Fire Departments)

Public Works (Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys, Sanitation (garbage, recycling, brush), Water and Sewer)

Community Development (Planning, Building Inspector, Code enforcement)

Administrative Services (City Manager, Utilities, Staff Salaries & Benefits, Switchboard, City Attorney, City Clerk, Information Technology (computers, website, public access TV)).

Optional: Your name and phone number (for follow-up): _____

All suggestions are due by July 6, 2009. Return to Administrative Services Department, 2401 53rd Street South, Gulfport, FL 33707, attention: Dan Carpenter, Administrative Services Director, 893-1014.

This form can be found on the City's website at the following link:

www.ci.gulfport.fl.us/SpecialDocuments/Budgetsurvey.pdf