

My District E-elections 2017

My Districts is a collaborative project between citizens and the City administration for prioritising and distributing funds for new, smaller-scale projects and maintenance in the districts of Reykjavík. The project begins in February 2017 and will continue into September 2018.

Citizens can participate in and follow the project on the consultation forum www.hverfidmitt.is, on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Betri.Reykjavik> on the portal Framkvæmdasjá <http://reykjavik.is/framkvaemdir-i-reykjavik-framkvaemdasja> or through their district service centres or district committees.

What is the ideology behind My District?

The project is based on ideas on deliberative democracy, participatory democracy, participatory budgeting – in general promoting public participation in democratic discussions and decision-making beyond what is normally seen in a representative democracy. Experience of previous years is used to improve the process, together with expert services and input from other cities all over the world that have practised participatory budgeting.

Time schedule

15. February.- 1.March: Preparation for gathering ideas

1 March– 24 March: Submission of ideas

8. March- 8 June: Project team from Environment and Planning Division (USK) assesses ideas. Preliminary design begins

24 March- 8 April: Ideas can be explained, discussed and rated online

8 May – 8 June: Environmental and Planning Division project team meets with district committees on the team's assessment of ideas submitted in the district

8 June- 15 June: Response of Environment and Planning Division team to comments from district committees

15 June – 30 June: District committee makes final selection of up to 25 projects in each district

30 June – 8 Sept: Ideas are pre- designed by design team

15 August – 22 Sept: Preparations for E-voting. Project lists prepared and presented

22 Sept. – 17 Oct: Preparations for E- voting and stress tests

17 Oct – 31. Oct: District e-voting

6 Nov. 2016 – 13 Feb: Project design and drafting of tender documents. Project tendered, contracts concluded with contractors and the City's Maintenance and Operations centres

17 February – 14 March: Tendering process for projects

14 April – 31. August: Implementation

1 Sept. 2018 Project conclusion

Allocation of funds by district

A total budget of ISK 450 million is planned for the project. As before, these funds are reserved for smaller-scale new projects and maintenance.

To ensure a minimum amount for the smallest districts, one-quarter of the funding is divided equally among all districts. The remaining amount is allocated in direct proportion to the number of residents in each district.

The first ISK 112.5 million is therefore divided equally among all ten districts, with each of them receiving ISK 11.25 million. The remaining ISK 337.5 million is divided among the City's 122,664 residents living in its various districts, which amounts to ISK 2,751,418 per capita. This figure is then multiplied by the number of residents in each district, with the outcome the total allocation for the district. The number of residents and their distribution among districts is based on figures in February 2017.*

My district 2017				
Allocations of funds by districts				
District	Residents	Minimum	According to no. of residents	Total
Árbaer	11.155	11.250.000	30.692.068	41.942.068
Breiðholt	21.363	11.250.000	58.778.543	70.028.543
Grafarholt og Úlfarsárdalur	6.872	11.250.000	18.907.744	30.157.744
Grafarvogur	17.954	11.250.000	49.398.959	60.648.959
Háaleiti og Bústaðir	14.483	11.250.000	39.848.787	51.098.787
Hlíðar	10.052	11.250.000	27.657.254	38.907.254
Kjalarnes	836	11.250.000	2.300.185	13.550.185
Laugardalur	16.044	11.250.000	44.143.750	55.393.750
City center	8.028	11.250.000	22.088.384	33.338.384
Reykjavík West	15.877	11.250.000	43.684.264	54.934.264
Total:	122.664	112.500.000	337.499.938	449.999.938

*Figures are based on data from the City Webview database, data taken on the 17th of February 2017. According to the figures the total no. of residents was 123.199 of whom 535 were of no fixed abode or registered with embassies abroad. The remaining 122,664 were distributed among the districts as shown in the accompanying table.

Submission of ideas 1st March- 24th of March 2017

Residents are invited to submit clever ideas for smaller-scale new projects or maintenance in the various city districts, which can then be submitted to a vote in the Better Reykjavík E-elections.

The ideas should:

- benefit the entire district,
- not cost more than the funds available for the district;
- not require very complicated preparation or implementation;
- be consistent with the City's planning and policy, fall within the remit of the City and be on City territory.

Ideas could concern, for instance:

- the outdoor environment and possibilities for outdoor leisure and recreation, such as benches, vegetation, outdoor artworks or improvements;
- facilities for games and leisure, such as improving play areas and renewing playground equipment;
- improving conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transportation, such as linking up paths and improving walkways or providing lighting.

The Environmental and Planning Division project team collects the ideas and assesses whether the project is suitable for Better Districts E-elections.

In order to be sent to a standing committee for consideration, an idea must have a net minimum of 10 positive ratings (i.e. positive ratings net of negative ratings).

To submit an idea to the consultation forum www.betrireykjavik.is, or www.hverfidmitt.is a user must first register, select his or her district and make sure the name of the idea, the location and the description are clear. An idea can be submitted for any district of Reykjavík regardless of where the person submitting it resides. Explanations and arguments for the idea can then be added in the same manner.

Anyone can make use of the public computers available in the City's libraries and service centres for this purpose.

Rating ideas on the website 24th March – 8th of April

On the website, residents can acquaint themselves with other people's ideas, discuss them and give them a rating (the same rules apply here as for Better Reykjavík). All ideas and the arguments for them are placed in the consultation forum for discussion.

The support received by an idea at this stage determines whether it will have a possibility of advancing to the district E-elections which determine the allocation of funds. It should be borne in mind, however, that even popular ideas can be discarded if it turns out that they do not satisfy the conditions regarding cost and feasibility. Remember that this stage is only a preliminary competition – support in the consultation forum is not a final selection. That will be made in the E-elections in a special web portal in October 2016.

Assessment by the project team

A project team from the Environmental and Planning Division begins to assess ideas as soon as they are submitted. The ideas are assessed on the basis of the guidelines given for their submission.

The project team's conclusions will accompany each idea in the consultation forum so that users will know if the idea in its present form cannot be considered. An attempt will be made to obtain a more detailed description and to adapt the idea in collaboration with its author and web users.

Those ideas which cannot be implemented or which exceed the district's financial limits, and which cannot be adapted sufficiently through consultation between the project team and the author of the idea, are automatically eliminated and will not be offered in the district E-elections. When ideas are discarded in this manner all those ranked lower will move up by one place.

There may be fewer than 25 ideas for each district if an insufficient number of ideas are submitted through the process and/or if they cannot be fitted into the guidelines for ideas invited here.

District committees

In August and September 2016 district committees will meet with the Environmental and Planning Division project team on their assessment of ideas received for the district, and consider the projects in the order of their popularity as they appear in the consultation forum. The district committees consider, for instance, the distribution of projects in the district and what projects will be eliminated following the project committee's assessment. If the district committee is of the opinion that the remaining projects (up to 25 in number) neglect certain parts of their district significantly, it can endeavour to even this out by replacing up to 5 of the 25 highest-rated projects with others ranked lower on the list (assuming that there are more than 25 projects). In so doing, the committee must consider the popularity of those ideas eliminated. The aim is that the conclusions of district committees are to be available no later than 30th of June 2017.

District E-elections

Once a list of projects has been prepared for each district, Reykjavík residents will be able to choose among up to 25 projects in each district. The elections are held on a special web portal, where the user signs on securely (using Icekey or other electronic ID) and votes are encrypted, making it impossible to link votes to individuals. Anyone who has reached the age of 16 as of 31 December 2017 and is domiciled in Reykjavík when the voting takes place is eligible to participate. Voting on projects will take place for two weeks in October. Precise arrangements will be advertised when the date approaches.

Please note that this is not a residents' election in the sense of Art. 107 of the Municipalities Act, No. 138/2011, which entered into force on 1 January 2012.

Project implementation

Projects will be designed, put out to tender and implemented from late 2017 to September 2018, when work is to have been completed. Information on their progress will be made available on the City of Reykjavík website (*Framkvæmdasjá*) and on Better Reykjavík. Efforts will be made to consult with persons submitting ideas and district councils on project implementation, especially in those cases where ideas need to be emended.

Those ideas which are not selected will be directed into alternate channels at the City of Reykjavík, e.g. as suggestions for departments or input for planning discussion.

What if I cannot use the consultation forum?

Persons who are not able to submit ideas through the consultation web, for instance, due to disabilities, have the option during the idea submission period of sending their ideas by e-mail to betrireykjavik@ibuar.is or by mail addressed to Better Reykjavík, Ráðhús Reykjavíkur, Tjarnargata 11, 101 Reykjavík. They can also contact their district service centre or the City of Reykjavík service centre by telephone 411-1111 and request assistance.

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Office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor