

## Austin Budget Party: Public Safety Focus

Public Safety makes up the largest portion of Austin's budget, with the police force being the main expenditure. Today, you will begin building your budget in the Budget Game by focusing solely on the Public Safety and the Police.

Directions:

- ☐ Go to [austinbudget.party](http://austinbudget.party)
- ☐ Click on "Start Budgeting" to create an account and log in
- ☐ Click through the "Welcome" and "Development" sections without making any changes
- ☐ Select Public Safety
- ☐ Use your references and the "Learn More" section to make informed decisions about how to adjust funding **police force** ONLY (you'll work on other sections in later classes)
- ☐ Answer the questions at the bottom of this sheet to explain your choices (you will need a separate sheet of paper)
- ☐ Save your progress by clicking "Done" at the end of the Public Safety Section.

The Budget Trade Off Sheet (attached) gives you an approximate cost for each police officer, which is important to take into consideration as you add to or detract from the current force allotment in your budget.

Suggested references (especially helpful when justifying/giving rationale for your budget decision)

- Your Class Discussion Reading
- The Measure Dashboard (you were introduced last class)
- The Budget Trade-Off Sheet
- The "Learn More" Section under Police: This feature will help you continue to inform your budgeting decisions. There you will find further information about crime rate, resident satisfaction, crimes cleared, etc.

Questions (be sure to give a thorough rationale and/or evidence for each answer):

1. How did your group modify funding for the police force?
2. If you changed the budget, how much money did you add or subtract?
3. What will be the impact of your decision for the city's police force?
4. What will be the impact of your decision on your local district?
5. What will be the impact of your decision on the city as a whole?
6. Why do you think you made the correct decision? Explain your reasoning in detail.
7. What are you hoping these modifications will accomplish?