

Interview guide - redacted

Procedural overview

Informal introduction (5 min) - Consent to record. Who we are/what we're doing. Chance to ask questions

Think aloud (15 min) - Read prompt and let them play with [the App](#). Answer direct questions. Remind them to think aloud.

What current PB looks like (5 min) - Share an example of a past PB ballot with the participant, so they can see the contrast in approach. Answer any questions.

Interview (30-35 min) - Ask questions from the interview guide. Listen and take notes. Ask follow-up questions to clarify interesting things that participants mention related to our research questions. Be sure to touch on each topic, but feel free to move on quickly if the participant does not offer much information related to our research questions.

Who are we and what are we doing

"We are researchers at [institution redacted], interested in how interactive visual interfaces can facilitate civic participation. We are seeking feedback from academics and policy workers on a prototype application for participatory budgeting. Our prototype demonstrates how new interactive interfaces could be used to augment existing participatory budgeting procedures. It is meant to prompt conversations about the role of such interfaces in civic participation."

Think aloud prompt

"I would like you to spend about 15 minutes exploring the prototype we created. Please read the text and play with the controls on each page. *Imagine that you are a resident of the 49th Ward giving input on funding for projects suggested and vetted by members of your community.*

As you use the application, please say what you are thinking out loud. *We are particularly interested in your impressions of the way we use interactive visualizations, how tools like this might be used in actual governance, and any questions or concerns that come to mind for you when using the tool.*"

Interview questions

How/what we measure

- Existing participatory budgeting approaches ask people to choose whether to *fully fund individual projects* with a fixed dollar amount, whereas our prototype asks people to *distribute the total budget across projects*. What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of each approach?
- Do you imagine that the information gathered through our prototype would be useful to the public or policymakers? Please explain.

- If a tool like this were to be deployed, what information if any should be measured that currently is not? What would that enable?

Accountability, fairness, and trust

- Do you think the geographic and demographic breakdown of voting provided on the final page of the application promotes transparency and accountability? What other information do you think would contribute towards these goals? Please explain.
- Do you think members of the public have fairness concerns about the participatory budgeting process? (may need to give examples) If so, how do you think they might prefer to express and address those concerns?

Adoption and usability

- Do you think that an interactive visual budgeting procedure such as this could impact voter turnout and representation? What else could be done to broaden participation? Please explain.
- Would you find it helpful to be able to track and audit the public's budget priorities across wards and over time? Please explain.
- Would you want to change anything about a participatory budgeting tool like this one before deploying it for real-world use? If yes, what would you change?