

# Vision:

## **System Definition:**

Building a system that allows every citizen to vote on the state/municipality budget, then compares the results to the actual budget, and checks whether the budget corresponds to the people's will.

## **Intended Audience:**

The system's target audience is divided into two:

1. The state/municipality will use the system to allow its citizens to vote on the budget directly and transparently.
2. The citizens of the state/municipality will use the system to express their preferences for how the budget should be distributed.

## **Problem, solution, and goal of the system:**

The problem is that there is currently a disconnect between the taxes that citizens pay and the ways in which the government/municipality uses them. As a result, citizens have limited influence on budget decisions and it is often difficult for them to affect specific aspects of budget agreements.

The purpose of the proposed system is to address this issue by providing a platform for citizens to directly vote on budget decisions, thereby giving them a greater say in how their taxes are used.

## **What systems exist today, and what major advantage does our system have?**

- **System 1:** exists in the city of Paris.

The system allows citizens to vote for projects that have been approved by committees, propose new projects (which will only be available for voting after committee approval), and follow projects that have received the highest votes.

It should be noted that the system has a closed code (unpublished code).

<https://participedia.net/case/5008>

- **System 2:** exists in Brazilian cities: Porto Alegre and Belo Horizonte.

Projects can be rated according to personal preferences, preference is given to projects that help the lower class.

It should be noted that the system has a closed code (unpublished code).

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/095624780101300112>

#### **The advantages of the system we offer compared to existing systems:**

- Project votes will be independent of committee approvals.
- Expanding the voting system from cities to governments.
- Full transparency on the number of votes cast each day.
- System accessibility- The system will be made available as an open-source platform, allowing anyone to access and use it for free. (Users will also be encouraged to contribute to the development and improvement of the system.)

#### **Priorities: Which parts of the system must be completed and which will be accomplished only if time permits:**

##### **Necessary:**

- A simple platform that allows citizens to vote.
- Development/implementation of a division algorithm influenced by the citizens' budget choices.
- A comparison of the results of the division algorithm to the state budget, determining whether the budget aligns with the citizens' will, and presenting the results online.
- A report describing the course and results of the experiment.

##### **If time permits:**

- Improving an algorithm that will make a fair division.
- Improving an algorithm that will perform a Pareto efficient division.
- Allowing for the proposal of new projects.
- providing information about the projects/government offices that can be voted on.
- Introducing a designed dashboard that will contain data, statistics, and comparisons.

##### **Among the statistics that will be presented:**

- How many citizens were voted out of all the citizens entitled to vote.
- The division into regions and the voting percentage in each residential area.
- Comparison of the voting results by region (the voting percentage for each project in each region).

## **Project Scope:**

**Server-side:** In Python with the use of the Flask library (using WSGI) and storing the information in a relational database.

**Client-side:** In JavaScript using the React library.

## **Product Name:**

"The People's Budget".

## **Elevator Speech:**

"The People's Budget" is a system that allows the state's citizens to influence the division of the state budget. This system empowers citizens, gives them a sense of belonging, and makes them feel like they are an important and influential part of the budget division process.

One of the main benefits of this system is the prevention of corruption and personal interests among government officials, as it aligns with the interests of the majority of the state's citizens.

Additionally, the system is user-friendly, reliable, and utilizes advanced technology.