JANAAGRAHA

JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

imatter

A Citizenship Awareness Initiative

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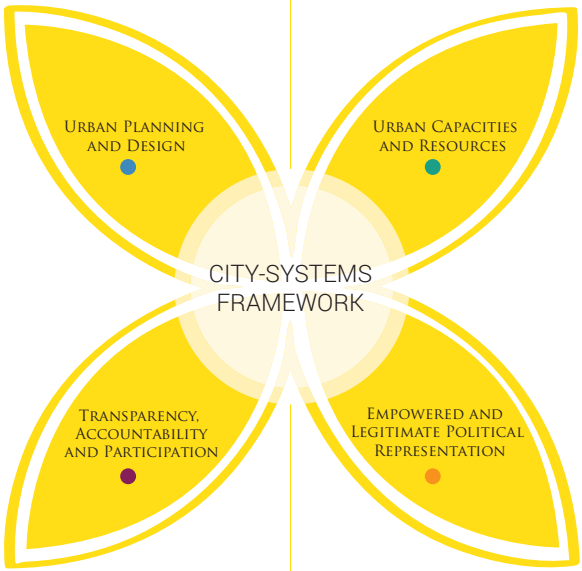


City-Systems are laws, policies, institutions and governance processes that all best in class cities exhibit. Well run cities are built on robust city-systems. Janaagraha works with citizens and the government to transform all 4 aspects of India's City-Systems

Never before has India witnessed urbanisation at this speed and scale, nor has there been a greater need for urgent action, if we are to address the complex challenges of urbanisation. But economic development is imperative to match up with this demographic boom. Today, India's cities are in a mess. The challenges are too deep and systemic to take tactical stabs at fixing them. Lack of clear leadership, lack of knowledge inside and outside the government, and a mish-mash of institutions with fragmented mandates add to the already mammoth problem.

Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy is a not-for-profit organisation committed to improving the quality of life in India's cities and towns. Over the past 15 years, we have worked systematically with both citizens at the grassroots as well as with the government at the Centre, State and Municipal levels. Our learnings over these years have resulted in a deep understanding of the city as a set of connected systems. At Janaagraha, we believe that the only way to fix the complex structural issues is by building a strong "City-Systems framework".

Janaagraha's work

Janaagraha's work addresses four dimensions of our City Systems Framework for better cities. These dimensions are reflected in whole, or in part, in all the world's great cities.

Urban Planning and Design

Laying the foundation for sustainable urban development through robust planning and design policies that respond to contemporary demands and aspirations, respecting federal structures and democratic principles. Building spatial plans that anchor the long-term political, social, economic and environmental vision for a city and its region / guide all public agencies towards delivering on that vision. Fixing India's urban roads networks – life blood of the city and chief pain point for citizens.

Urban Capacity & Resources

Training better Bureaucrats and Administrators to strengthen the 'steel frame' of India. Creating well-resourced Urban Local Governments to meet the demands of India's urbanisation.

Empowered and Legitimate Elected Representation

Empowering urban voters through clean voter lists. Increasing voter turnout to ensure higher quality elected representatives.

Transparency, Accountability and Participation

Building tomorrow's active citizens through local level civic education. Improving the safety of our neighbourhoods and bridging the gap between citizens and police through citizen participation in Community Policing. Creating Transparent and Accountable Urban Local Government through reporting and disclosure. Building a growing constituency of citizens who are engaged in their cities' budgets. Using the voice of citizens to tackle 'retail' corruption in government services. Allowing citizens to connect with one another, and with their civic agencies / local governments, to make a real difference in their own neighbourhoods

Janaagraha's Programmes
Key Achievements

URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

NUSPD & Spatial Planning

- MoU with Union Ministry of Urban Development for developing Master Planning guidelines
- The Rajasthan Heritage Conservation Bill, 2014
- The Rajasthan Regional and Municipal Planning and Development Bill, 2014

Tender SURE

- Specifications for Urban Road Execution (vol. 1-2) accepted by State Government of Karnataka, with 200 crores allocated, beginning with a 68 Crore outlay for 7 pilot roads in Bangalore

URBAN CAPACITIES AND RESOURCES

Urban Capacity Building

- MoU with the IAS Academy in Mussoorie on their urban curriculum
- Collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan of redefining Municipal Organization Charts for Bikaner, Ajmer and Udaipur

EMPOWERED AND LEGITIMATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

PURE Rolls (Proper Urban Electoral Rolls)

- 1 Constituency in Bangalore cleaned up (75% accurate, 30% better than peers). 14% increase in voter turnout in 2013 State elections
- Initiated quantitative research, in a scientific manner, to estimate the extent of errors inherent in Delhi's voter lists

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Ipaidabribe.com

- Close to 4.3mm hits from 823 cities, 34,799 reports
- 33 country sites for IPAB

Ichangemycity.com

- Geo-locational ICMYC platform with unprecedented Hyper-Local data
- A civic community with over 1,23,000+ registered users
- 16000+ complaints, 8000+ real life civic issues resolved
- Civic Agency complaint partnerships

PROOF (Public Record of Operations and Finance)

- Collaboration with the CAG of India, Government of Rajasthan and the ICAI on Performance Reporting Framework for cities
- CRISIL and Janaagraha signed a MoU for a 3 year period to jointly work on an Annual Performance Report of Indian cities.

Bala Janaagraha

- Reached more than 36,000 Grade 8 students in 484 schools in 24 cities
- 1 Civic Franchise Partner, 1 Delivery Partner

Community Policing

- Over 83,000 citizens touched through, beat level, door-to-door & organised awareness programmes
- Impact assessment of the Community Policing programme initiated

Open Works

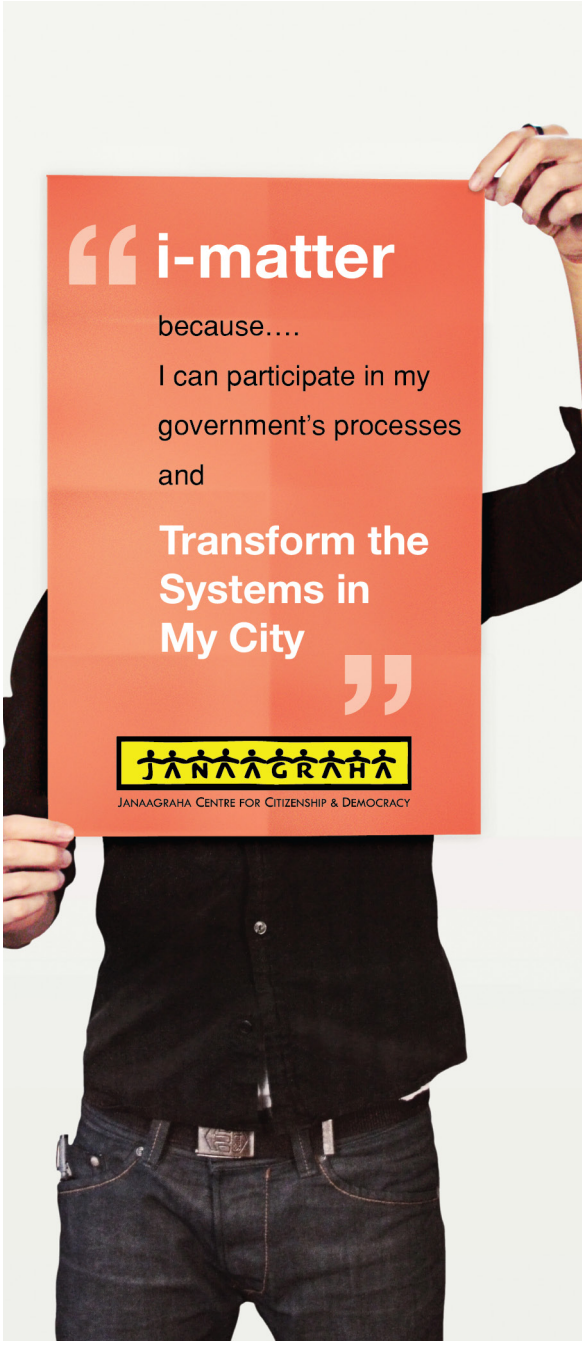
- Open Works will provide information on civic works done in Bangalore, on an online platform for citizens to track lifecycle of projects
- Collaboration with Pune Municipal Corporation to create 'My City, My Money', a web portal to demystify financial budgets for tax-paying Pune citizens

imatter

A citizenship awareness initiative by Janaagraha

i-matter programme

Based on the belief that each individual can play a role in our democracy, the i-matter programme is created to give citizens knowledge, motivation and tools necessary to participate in the political process.



About the i-matter programme

As citizens of this country we constantly struggle with civic issues around us that impact the quality of our lives. These issues often encompass problems ranging from law & order, garbage disposal, bad roads to water supply, sewerage, storm water drain flooding and so on. The easy way out for every citizen is to blame the government, the elected representatives and its administration for not solving their problems.

Citizens have the right to vote such that they elect their representatives. But the larger question here is whether our responsibility as citizens ends with a vote that's cast every five years? Or is there more to our roles and duties? Citizenship in the modern parlance is about taking the responsibility for the issues that surround us and bringing about change in our lives, in our neighbourhoods, in our cities. We need the tools and knowledge of the kind of decisions we could take and participate within the larger governance processes.

Imatter is a citizenship awareness initiative with an objective to capture the aspirations of corporate employees, in their role as citizens of this nation. A four hour comprehensive & collaborative session, 'i-matter' is created to give citizens knowledge, motivation and tools necessary to participate in the political processes of the government. 'i-matter' is based on the ideology of "good citizens make good employees", making it a cohesive platform for corporate employees to think, transform and deliberate on bringing about a change on issues that affect them!

Notes on some interesting concepts we learnt during the i-matter session

Municipalities and Parastatals

The 74th Amendment to the Constitution in 1993, gave birth to urban local self-governance by mandating a further devolution of power, to Municipalities. Hence the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) was conferred all/some of the responsibilities stated in the 12th schedule (at the discretion of the State).

However, there still exist other institu¬tions such as the BDA, for example, which are called parastatals – a government or state-owned entity – that undertake the urban service delivery operations in a city, but are not accountable to the city-level governments. The BDA comes under the direct purview of the State government and not the BBMP because it was established under a separate act of the State Legislature. This kind of setup brings in understandable complexities because of the overlap of functions and jurisdictions between the parastatals and Municipality.

Parastatals and State Departments

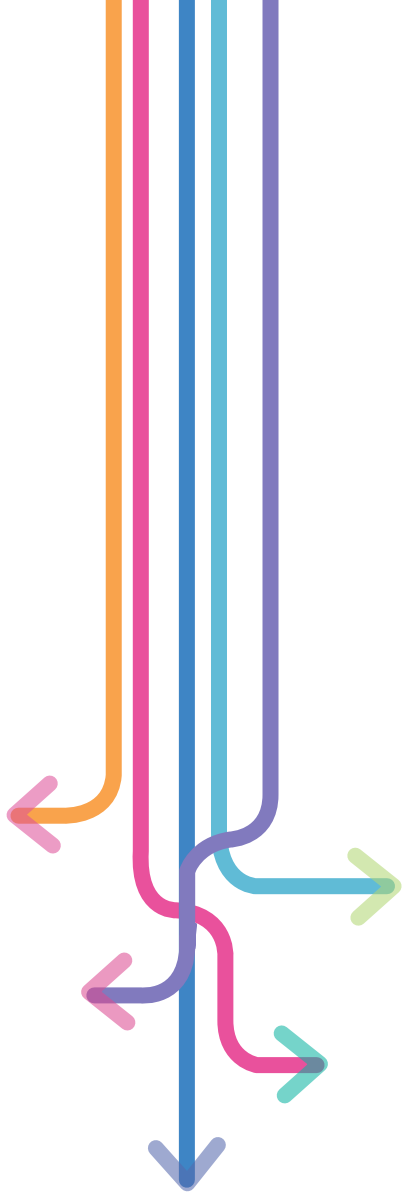
Parastatals like BWSSB, BESCOM, Bangalore City Police, BMTC etc. perform urban services like water supply, electricity, law and order and transport.

BWSSB is responsible for the pumping and distribution of drinking water, sewerage collection, water and waste water treatment and dis¬posal.

BESCOM is the agency responsible for power distribution in the city.

BMTC which bifurcated from KSRTC, is the agency responsible for the bus-based public transport system of the city.

The Bangalore City Police is responsible for the enforcement



of overall law and order while one of their divisions, Bangalore Traffic Police is responsible for the manning of traffic islands and enforcement of traffic laws.

In addition to the city corporation and the various parastatals respon¬sible for planning, development and service delivery functions, there are also the State Government Departments that perform service de¬livery and regulatory functions in Bangalore.

Problems inherent in Parastatals

Since there are no locally elected representatives in the parastatals, unlike in the BBMP, (whose councilors/corporators are elected) they are not held accountable in any way to the people.

Parastatal	Functions	Functional Overlap
BDA	Responsible for land use, zoning regulation and planning of land, providing sites, creating urban infrastructure & improving urban environment	A function of BBMP under the 12th schedule of the 74th Amendment; also carried out by BMRDA
BMRDA	Responsible for planning, coordinating & supervising the orderly development of land	A Municipal Corporation function mainly carried by BDA in the city limits
BWSSB	Responsible for the pumping and distribution of drinking water, sewerage collection, water and waste water treatment and disposal	Some aspects of water and waste disposal are also carried out by the BBMP.
KSCB	Performs rehabilitation of all declared slum area in the city	A Municipal Corporation function also performed by BDA and BBMP

The **12th Schedule of the 74th Constitutional Amendment** Act of India, defines tasks in the functional domain of the Urban Local Bodies, as follows -

1. Urban planning, including town planning
2. Regulation of land use and construction of buildings
3. Planning for economic and social development
4. Roads and bridges
5. Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes
6. Public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management
7. Fire services
8. Urban forestry, protection of environment and promotion of ecological aspects
9. Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the disabled and mentally retarded
10. Slum improvement and upgrading
11. Urban poverty alleviation
12. Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens playgrounds
13. Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects
14. Burials and burial grounds, cremations, cremation grounds and electric crematoriums
15. Cattle pounds; prevention of cruelty to animals
16. Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths
17. Public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public conveniences
18. Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries

State of Community Participation Law

Status of Community Participation Law (CPL)	States/Union Territories
Passed CPL	Andra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Nagaland, West Bengal & Karnataka
Passed with modifications (No Area Sabha)	Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
Passed with modifications (No Ward Committee)	Chattisgarh & Uttrakhand
Passed with no action on implementation	Assam, Nagaland, Karnataka, Haryana, Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand
Under Consideration	Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu & Sikkim
Not passed CPL	Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab & Tripura

Community Participation Law

The central government run Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) had imposed a condition on state governments to receive funds from this corpus; states should fully implement the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (74th CAA) and bring in a Community Participation Law (CPL) or a Model Nagara Raj Bill, to supplement its provisions. This was aimed at attaining the benefits of democracy with directly elected representatives at every tier. This state level reform establishes a platform for citizens to participate in municipal functions, which are matters of their everyday concern.

According to a study conducted by Janaagraha, as on December 2010, the number of states that have passed the Community Participation Law stands at fifteen. These states are- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It, however, is under consideration and yet to be passed in eight states each. It is important to note that passing a law does not necessarily imply implementing the law. Of the fifteen states that have passed the law, we find that only in eight, has it been implemented.

While Hyderabad is the only city in the country to have actively constituted and implemented Area Sabhas via the CPL, there may be other cities which have implemented the CPL, but not in its entirety. It is worth noting here that states have the power to 'play' with the law and may not follow it in its true spirit. With recent changes in the central government's outlook on Urban Infrastructure and Renewal, implementing the 74th CAA and the CPL may or may not remain a condition but nonetheless, the CPL is a model law that aims to enhance citizen participation and take democracy to the roots and for these reasons is a law that all states should go ahead and adopt.

AREA SABHAS

Area Sabhas in Hyderabad

Hyderabad is the only city in the county wherein Area Sabas are active. Every voter of an area is empowered to participate in deciding about the development programs for his / her area and selection of beneficiaries for all the government programs along with the elected leaders. It is exciting how you and your neighbours could come together and participate in discussions through Area Sabha meetings and bring about change in the vicinity you live in.

The Greater Hyderabad of Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has taken the initiative of decentralising governance to the last mile by forming Area Sabhas. There are currently 152 wards in Hyderabad and in October 2010, Ward Committees were constituted for every locality covering a population of 5000 or more.

Each ward committee is made up of several Area Sabhas and this, in turn, is made up of all registered voters in a particular polling part or people who vote at a particular polling booth. The election commission decides the boundaries of the polling booth. Every meeting requires that at least 50 members are present and they are held once in three months. Some of these members, usually nominated by members of the Area Sabha or the GHMC, also participate in ward committee meetings held once every two months. This makes sure that all woes related to an area are represented at a ward level and is further disseminated at the Municipality Level. This creates an urban equivalent of a Gram Sabha and recognizes the unique challenges and features of urban settings.

GHMC has assigned one officer from amongst the Project Officers and Community Organisers as Assistant Secretaries to each of the Area Sabhas and an Assistant Engineer or the Deputy Engineer as the Ward Secretary with the responsibility to organise the meetings of the Area Sabhas regularly and to communicate the decisions and minutes of the meetings to the Ward Committees for further action. The elected officials provide information to the Area Sabhas on the services and resources for development that may be proposed for one particular area. The Ward Committee, which is essentially kept in

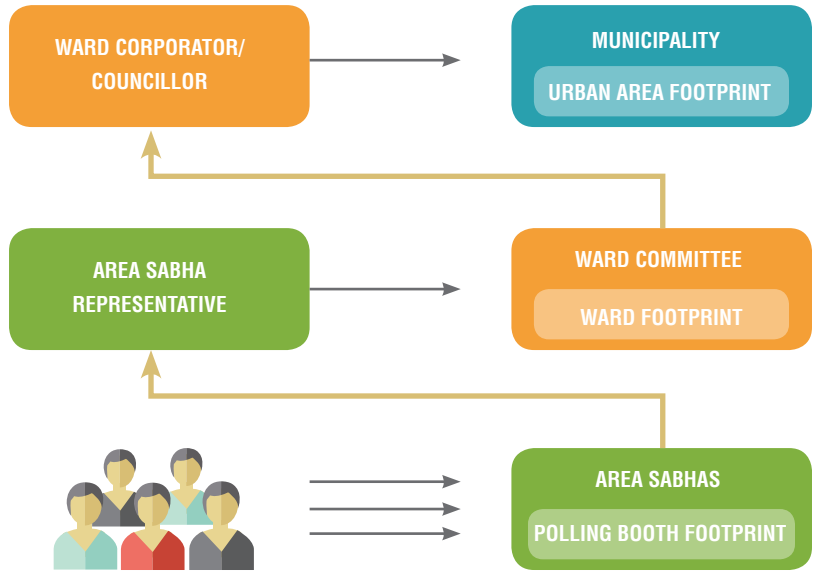
the loop, is responsible for follow-up action on decisions taken at the Municipality/Corporation level.

In order to convene and preside over the Area Sabha Meetings, GHMC nominates an Area Sabha Representative for each of the Area Sabhas. The representative is selected by the GHMC from the many informal associations of people such as SHGS, RWAs, NGOs and so on. Such an arrangement allows for efficiency in the governance processes and devolution of power to the lowest unit of government such that citizens are empowered to bring about change in their quality of life.

The structure of an Area Sabha, which allows for citizens to participate in the decision making process of the government formally, is as follows:

Formalising Participation - Janaagraha's Solution

Connect the area to the municipalities decision-making

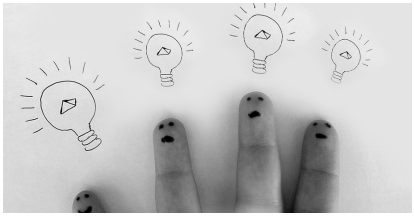


Participatory Budgeting

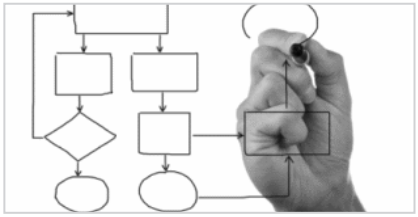
Why does Participatory budgeting make so much sense?

Quite simple, who knows better about their community or their neighbourhood than the people who live in that community? This community is the best to decide on where the tax money for their local issues is best spent!

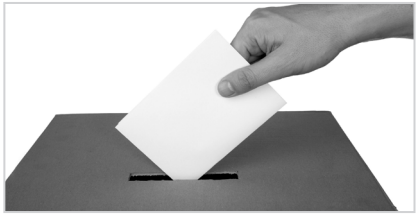
How does Participatory Budgeting work?



Community Brain storms ideas about projects they need



Volunteers build a project plan based on those project ideas



Community votes for the shortlisted projects they feel suit best for their community

Project (s) with the most votes gets the funding.

The beginnings of Participatory budgeting PORTO ALEGRE

Where is Porto Alegre?

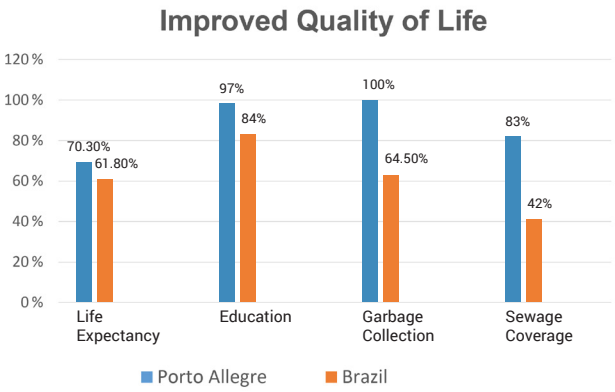
In Brazil in the southern state of Rio Grande Do Sul.

Participatory Budgeting and Porto Alegre.

The first full participatory budgeting process was developed in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil, starting in 1989. Participatory budgeting was part of a number of innovative reform programs started in 1989 to overcome severe inequality in living standards amongst city residents. One third of the city's residents lived in isolated slums at the city outskirts, lacking access to public amenities (water, sanitation, health care facilities, and schools). (Source – Wikipedia) Porto Alegre was a city where, despite high life expectancy and literacy, a third of the city's population lived in isolated slums at the city outskirts and lacked access to such public amenities as clean water, sanitation, medical facilities, and schools. To overcome this situation, certain innovative reform programs were started in 1989. Participatory budgeting emerged as the centre piece of these programs.

How is Participatory budgeting implemented in Porto Alegre'?

1. Participatory budgeting in Porto Alegre occurs annually, starting with a series of neighbourhood, regional, and citywide assemblies, where residents and elected budget delegates identify spending priorities and vote on which priorities to implement.[4]
2. Porto Alegre spends about 200 million dollars per year on construction and services, this money is subject to participatory budgeting.
3. Annual spending on fixed expenses, such as debt service and pensions, is not subject to public participation.
4. Around 50,000 residents of Porto Alegre now take part in the



participatory budgeting process (compared to 1.5 million city inhabitants), with the number of participants growing year on year since 1989. Participants are from diverse economic and political backgrounds.

5. The participatory budgeting cycle starts in January and assemblies across the city facilitate maximum participation and interaction.
6. Each February there is instruction from city specialists in technical and system aspects of city budgeting.
7. In March there are plenary assemblies in each of the city's 16 districts as well as assemblies dealing with such areas as transportation, health, education, sports, and economic development.
8. These large meetings—with participation that can reach over 1,000—elect delegates to represent specific neighbourhoods.
9. The mayor and staff attend to respond to citizen concerns. In the following months, delegates meet weekly or biweekly in each district to review technical project criteria and district needs. City department staff may participate according to their area of expertise.
10. At a second regional plenary, regional delegates prioritize the district's demands and elect 42 councillors representing all districts and thematic areas to serve on the Municipal Council of the Budget.
11. The main function of the Municipal Council of the Budget is to reconcile the demands of each district with available resources, and to propose and approve an overall municipal budget.
12. The resulting budget is binding, though the city council can suggest, but not require changes. Only the Mayor may veto the budget, or remand it back to the Municipal Council of the Budget.

Below are a few links to resources that will provide you with the necessary tools and aids to participate in our democracy

www.ichangemycity.com

www.ipaidabribe.com

http://www.ichangemycity.com/pages/bala-janaagraha

http://www.ichangemycity.com/pages/community-policing

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