# D.C. Council Plans $1 Million Investment in LGBTQ+ Community in 2025 Budget



On June 3, supporters of D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser gathered outside the Wilson Building to hear her speak about Pride Month. D.C. Council is set to vote on the 2025 budget next week, which includes significant investments for the city’s LGBTQ+ community. These proposed investments include $1 million for a new LGBTQ+ community center in Shaw, housing vouchers, a history project highlighting Black LGBTQ+ Washingtonians, and grants for LGBTQ+ businesses.

Council member Zachary Parker (D-Ward 5), the only gay lawmaker on the council, highlighted that the budget reflects community priorities, thanks in part to contributions from local organizations like the D.C. LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition and the Rainbow History Project. Parker and other advocates emphasized the importance of these investments, particularly ahead of the WorldPride festival set to take place in D.C. next summer.

This budget allocation occurs in a challenging financial climate, with slowed revenue growth impacting many agencies. Despite this, the budget provisions include funding for culturally competent housing and support services, essential for LGBTQ+ individuals who may face rejection or lack of safety in traditional shelters.

In addition to the new community center, the budget will also support LGBTQ+ businesses, especially in Ward 6, where efforts have already been made to save queer community spaces like the bar As You Are from financial distress. These budget allocations aim to foster safe havens and gathering spots for D.C.’s LGBTQ+ residents, recognizing their value to the community.