



# MUNICIPAL MONEY MATTERS

Philadelphia City Controller Christy Brady

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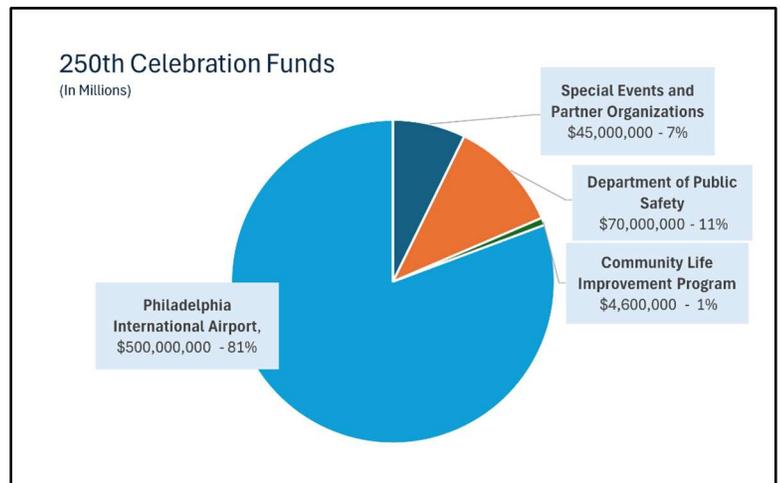
## Preparing for America's 250<sup>th</sup>: City Spending and Economic Impact

As the birthplace of American democracy, Philadelphia will play a central role in the nation's 250th birthday celebrations in 2026. Planning and coordination efforts are being led by **Philadelphia250**, the key organizer for city-specific celebrations.

### Committed City Dollars

The FY26 budget includes nearly **\$120 million** across its General, Transportation, and Capital funds to support preparations for 2026. This total includes:

- **\$70 million** for public safety and essential services, including police, fire and emergency management.
- **\$45 million** to support and enhance special events through partner organizations
- **\$4.6 million** for Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) projects, including neighborhood beautification and Mural Arts projects.



### Investments at Philadelphia International Airport

Separately, the city has committed approximately **\$500 million** toward capital improvements at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). While these investments are not exclusive to the 250th celebration, they are intended to support increased passenger volume associated with the major events happening in 2026.

### Employment & Economic Activity

Tourism and large-scale events provide important employment opportunities in Philadelphia, particularly within the leisure and hospitality sector. In 2024, **77,600** Philadelphians were employed in this sector. PHL is also a significant source of employment and economic activity. In 2023, the airport supported over **49,000 jobs** in Philadelphia and generated an estimated **\$9.8 billion** in economic impact.

In addition to growth in the Philly job market, VisitPhilly estimates that the increase of tourism associated with major events in 2026, including America's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, could generate between **\$1.3 to \$2.5 billion** in economic activity citywide.

*Each month Controller Brady looks forward to bringing transparency and accountability of our city, right to you.*