Building Public Infrastructure to Track Budget Freezes and Cuts in the Legislature

James Kan
Citizen Congress Watch
policykan@ccw.org.tw

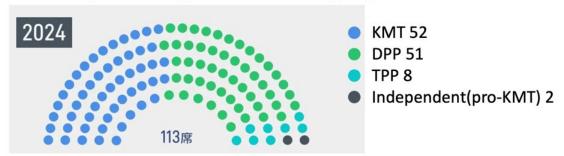






Taiwan's 2024 Election: A Divided Government

- Presidential & Legislative elections held in early 2024
- DPP retained the presidency (William Lai elected)
- KMT + TPP gained majority seats in the Legislative Yuan
- Result: Divided government executive and legislature controlled by opposing camps
- Policy-making becomes highly contentious and polarized



The Bluebird Movement: Citizens Defending Democracy

- Erupted in May 2024 over controversial parliamentary reform bills
- Opposition pushed bills expanding legislative power
 - → included a "contempt of parliament" offense
- Critics feared threats to separation of powers
- Tens of thousands protested outside the parliament
- The movement's name **originated from the May 24 rally**.

 Protesters used "**Bluebird**" instead of "Qingdao," the name of the street near parliament, to **avoid algorithmic suppression on social media**.





2025–2026 Budget Controversy: Power Struggle in Parliament

- Late 2025 Early 2026: massive budget dispute in the legislature
- Parliament cut NT\$207.6 billion (≈ 6.6% of total budget)
- Cuts affected defense, diplomacy, culture, welfare sectors
- Opposition said: "saving taxpayers' money"
- Government warned: "cuts threaten national operations"
- Premier called it "a suicidal budget cut" and sought reconsideration
- Debate raised questions about procedural justice and democratic stability

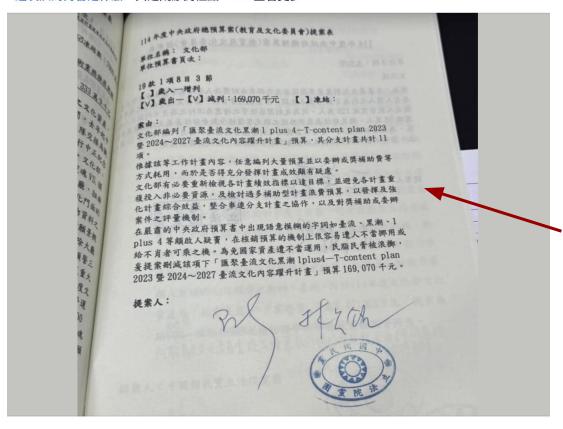


Data Journalism

Zoe Lee azoezoe@readr.tw



七百多案的預算提案!光表決就要兩天...但最讓人心累的,還是要在立法院面對藍白兩黨各種荒謬刪預算的理由。而且還與國會擴權法、財劃法等法案一樣,#一邊更正一邊表決,#表決完了還不知道表決的內容是什麼,真是荒謬到極點!......查看更多

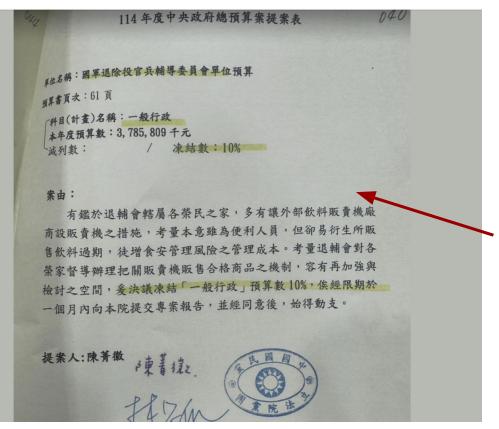


This Lawmakers said,

They cut it because the budget item included the words "Taiwan Pop," which they saw as forcing a cultural identity.



稍早又看到一個國民黨的奇怪提案,榮民之家販賣機販售飲料容易放到過期,國民黨立委想到的方法不是爭取預算增加飲品的多樣性和吸引力,他們想到的方法是「凍結退輔會的預算10%」。...... 查看更多



This Lawmakers said,

They argued that drinks in vending machines often expire, so they cut 10% of that ministry's administrative budget.



國民黨把公視23億全砍光,實質上就是要公視關台,這將重創台灣的影視產業,連兒少節目都無法倖免。更扯的是,還刪錯項目,代表國民黨根本沒認真看預算,就是為砍而砍,根本不是監督。...... 查看更多



This Lawmakers said,

...

The opposition is about to cut all subsidies for public television.



這些是目前在立法院預算審議過程中,立委提出的刪減和凍結提案:

● 依部會分類 ○ 搜尋



黨團協商新提案 經濟部 水利署 產業發展署 中小及新創企業署 商業發展署 能源署 國際貿易署 標準檢驗局智慧財產局 產業園區管理局 地質調查及礦業管理中心 台灣電力公司 台灣中油股份有限公司 台灣自來水公司 經濟作別收入基金 台灣糖業股份有限公司 經濟作業基金 水資源作業基金 核能發電後端營運基金

想隨機看不同提案內容?點我跳轉

| 編號 | 部會 | 審議日期 (階段) | 提案人 (連署) | 提案 | 審議結果 | | 提案內容 | 預算 金額 | 關心數 | 我關心這個 |
|------|----------|--------------|-------------|----|------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|
| 6700 | 黨團 | 2025-01- | 民眾黨團 | 凍結 | 通過 | <u>資料來源</u> | 114年度刑事警察局預算案於 | 935757000 | 569 | MXH |
| ď | 協商 新提 | 20 (院會) | | | | | 第6目「刑事警察業務」項下「業務費」編列預算[更多] | | | Time? |



這些是目前在立法院預算審議過程中,立委提出的刪減和凍結提案:



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|-----------|------|--------------------|-------------|----|------|------|---|-----------------|----------|-------|
| 6391 【 | 通案刪減 | 2025-01- 17(院會) | 民眾黨團 | 減列 | 通過 | 資料來源 | 8. 軍事裝備及設施(允許在業務費科目範圍內調整):統刪 3%,其中國防部所[更多] | 9400000000 4992 | | M & M |
| 6385 | 通案刪減 | 2025-01- 17(院會) | 民眾黨團 | 減列 | 通過 | 資料來源 | 1. 大陸地區旅費:除現行法律明文規定支出不刪外,數位發展就、國家通知傳輸 | 94000000 | 000 3519 | (Han) |



Key Results of the Project

Immediate Impact

- Enable public access to complete, original documents
 - → closer to the truth

Follow-up

Built on the core dataset to produce in-depth reports tracking the issue

Ongoing Work

- Automating analysis workflow for historical and future proposals
- Building tools for civic groups and public engagement

Immediate Impact: Closer to Truth

Public access to all original documents

Quickly dispel misinformation and rumors

Empower citizens to fact-check beyond political bias

Follow-up: In-depth Reporting Without Relying on Official Numbers

Built on the core dataset to produce in-depth tracking reports

The official unable to provide a concrete number

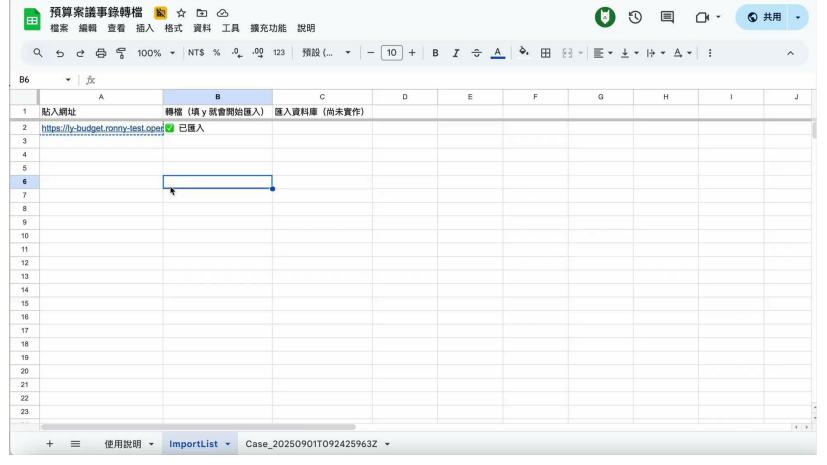
 Simulate calculations based on complete dataset → reveal core "math problem"

Ongoing Work: Create low-manual-effort workflows for budget oversight

 Feedback from budget researchers & civic groups → data too hard to obtain

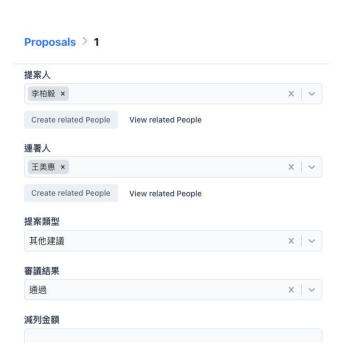
Lack of historical data hinders evidence-based claims

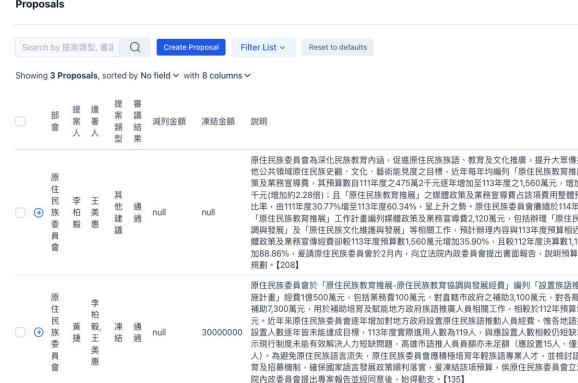
Provide civic groups tools to monitor congress



• Simple data import: extract proposals from meeting records in **two steps** (paste URL, type "y")

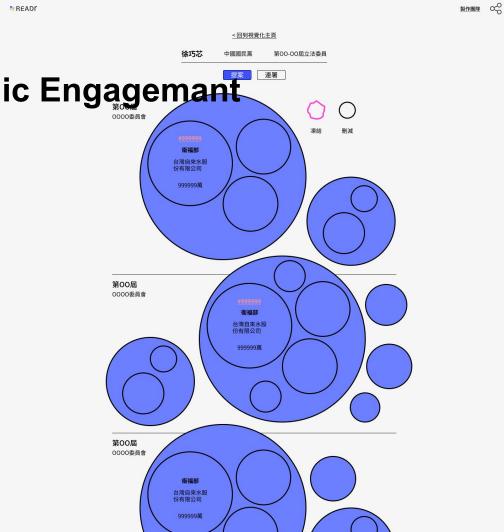
Ongoing Work: Create low-manual-effort workflows for budget oversight





Ongoing Work: Crowd Sourcing and Public Engagement

 Use Data Visualization for Clarity



Ongoing Work: Crowd Sourcing and Public Engagement

- Created a LINE Chatbot for crowdsourced data entry
 - Simple Q&A format: users type what they see in the image
 - Helps assemble clean data fields for proposals

Open Source & Open Data

