



**Northern Illinois
University**

**Participatory Transparency in Kenya:
Beanstalks or Rickety Ladders?**

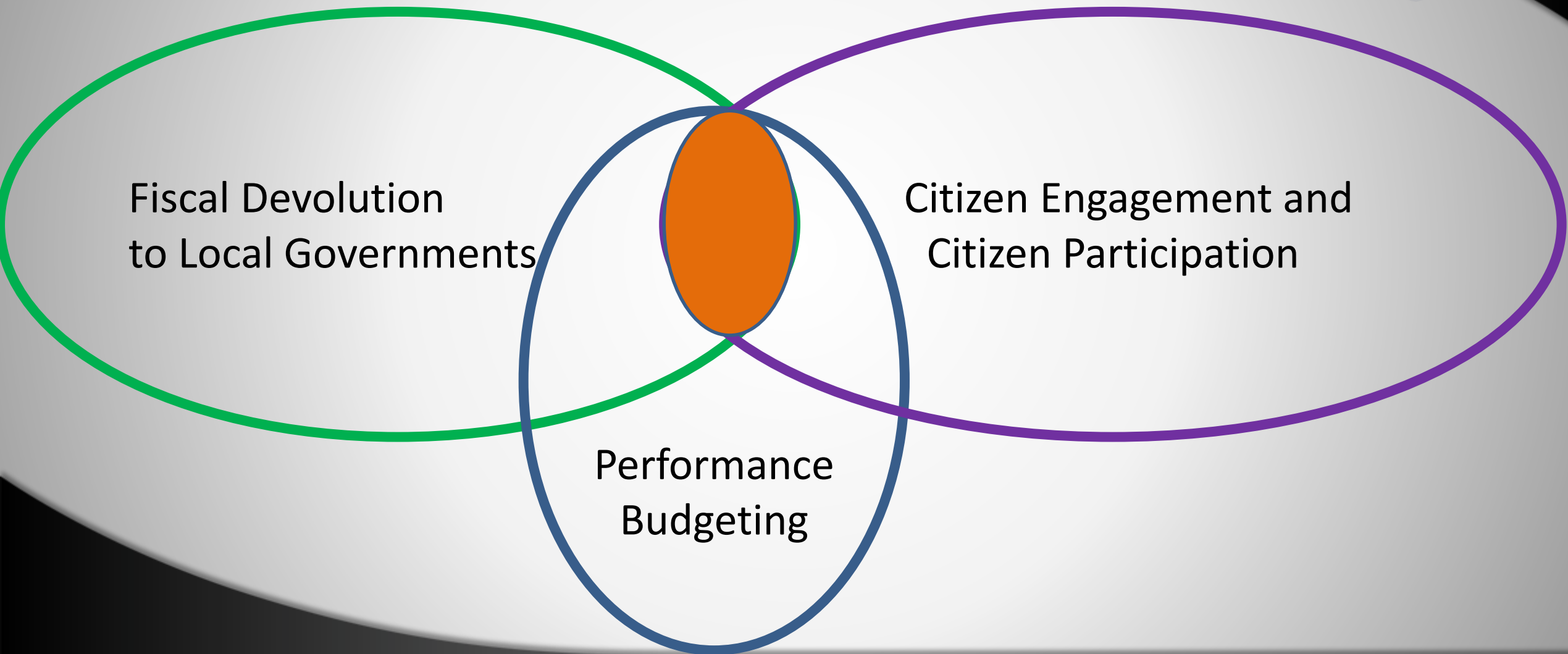
Frankline Muthomi and Kurt Thurmaier
Department of Public Administration
School of Public & Global Affairs
Northern Illinois University



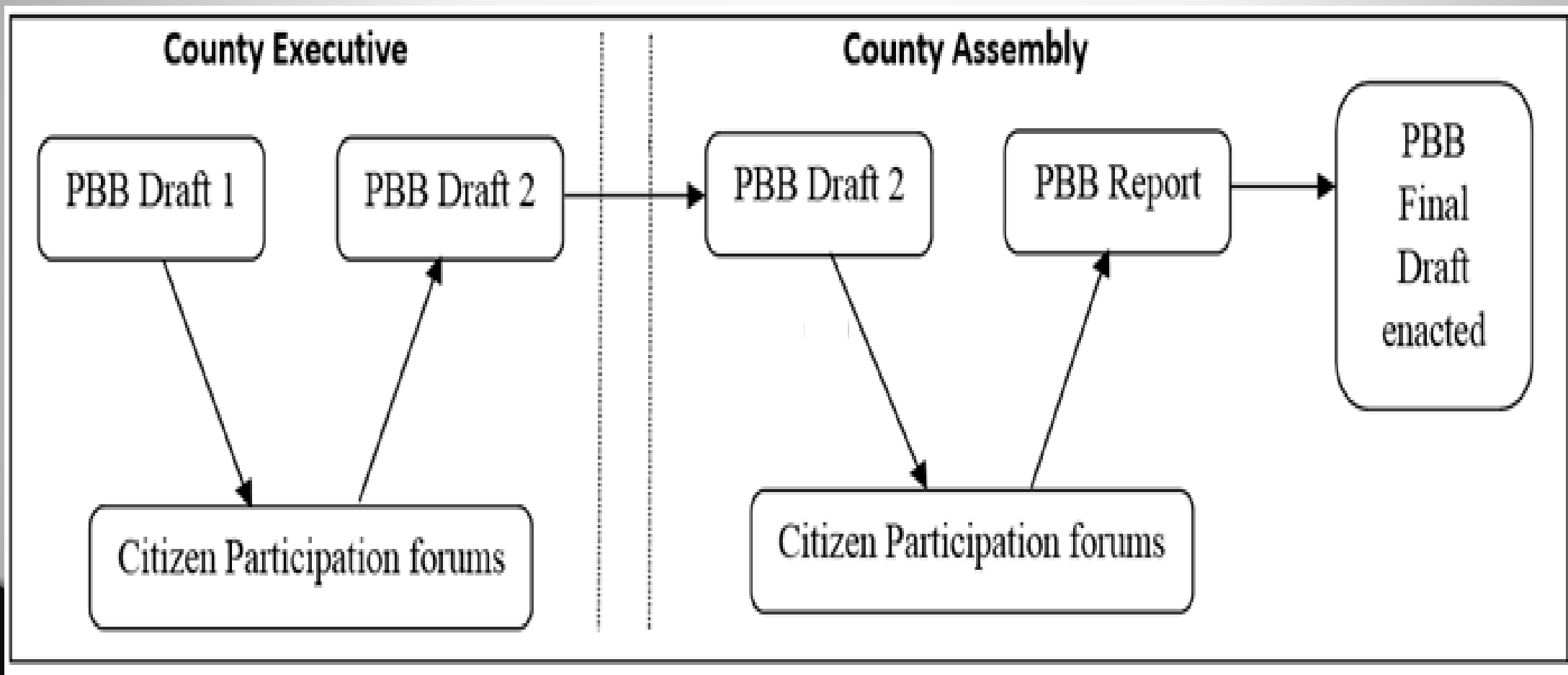
Fiscal Devolution
to Local Governments

Citizen Engagement and
Citizen Participation

Performance
Budgeting



County Governments Public Participation Processes





Debates on Citizen Participation

Comparison of IAP2 and Arnstein Models

Level of Citizen Empowerment	IAP2's Spectrum of Participation	Arnstein's Ladder of Participation
Highest	Empower	<i>Citizen Power: Citizen Control</i>
	Collaborate	<i>Citizen Power: Delegated Power</i>
Moderate	Involve	<i>Citizen Power: Partnership</i>
	Consult	<i>Tokenism: Consultation, Placation</i>
Lowest	Inform	<i>Tokenism: Informing</i> <i>Nonparticipation: Manipulation, Therapy</i>

Research Question:



- **Proposition:** Meaningful budgeting engagement requires the necessary tools to participate
- **Gap:** the impact of citizens in budget and planning decisions

FIELD STUDY QUESTION: In which citizen participation models across the four counties do citizens reach highest rung on Arnstein ladder?

Or

Who climbs a bean stalk and who struggles on a rickety ladder?

Meaningful participation

Engaged Budgeting

Ability to
prioritize

Access to
participation

Information Transparency

Access to
proposed
documents

Access to
project/
expenditure
reports

Feedback loop

Participatory Transparency

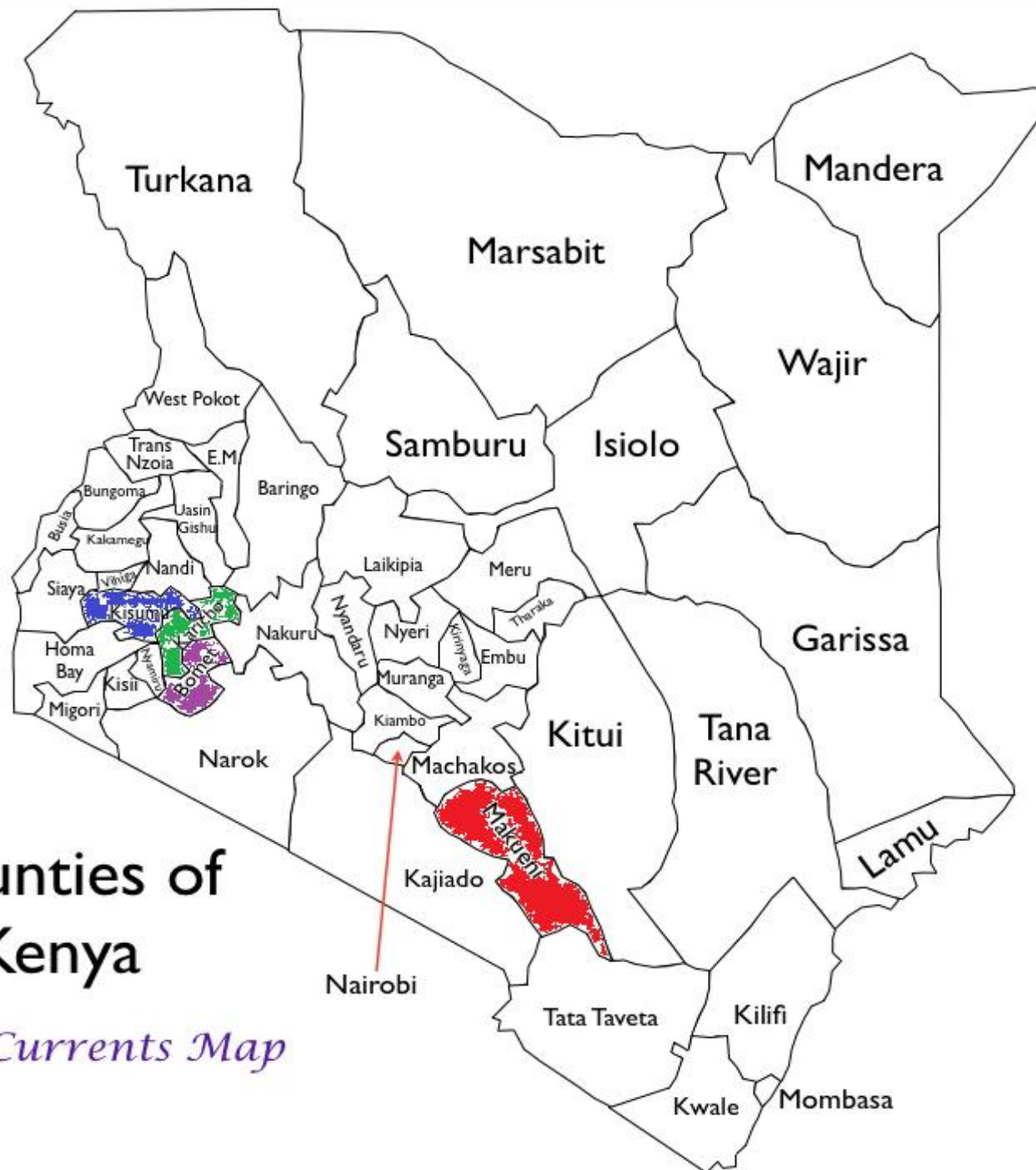


Figure 1, we propose a framework for engaged budgeting model in Kenya - PT
Meaningful participation is a product of engaged budgeting and information transparency



Counties of Kenya

GeoCurrents Map



Research design

- 4 counties, 15 Wards, and 15 focus group discussions (n= 131)
- Participants are both in rural and urban Wards
- Recruit participants through the Ward Administrators

Techniques for analysis

- Constant comparison analysis; open, axial, & selective coding
- Make comparisons across Wards in the same county, across counties, and across the primary questions

Results: Recruitment



Factor	Question	Thematic Area	Bomet	Kericho	Kisumu	Makueni	Overall Total
Recruitment	How did you learn about Public Participation?	Newspaper/print media	3	5	3	1	12
		Social Media (WhatsApp/FB)	12	7	28	13	60
		Radio	5	6	18	9	38
		TV	0	0	5	0	5
		County Officials/WA	4	6	4	18	32
		MCA's	2	1	3	1	7
		Public announcements	1	3	2	3	9
		Notice boards/ posters	0	2	2	2	6
		Text message/SMS	0	1	2	18	21
		Friends	1	7	2	0	10

Results: Challenge



Factor	Question	Thematic Area	Bomet	Kericho	Kisumu	Makueni	Overall Total
Challenge	How convenient is it for you to attend public participation?	Distance/far	5	2	8	5	20
		Venue/location	7	2	9	4	22
		Delays (by officials)	3	2	4	0	9
		Transport/fare/money	5	2	7	5	19
		Notice period	0	2	4	0	6
		Discussion time	4	3	3	0	10
		Reimbursement	0	0	2	1	3

Results: Prioritization



Factor	Question	Thematic Area	Bomet	Kericho	Kisumu	Makueni	Overall Total
Prioritization	What kind of information do you rely on to privatize for development projects?	Citizen here-say/concerns/needs	12	4	14	3	33
		Village level engagements/groups	1	4	20	14	39
		Project completion (Do over/ Undone)	21	23	10	7	61
		Lack of implementation information	9	11	12	0	32

Results: Decision



Factor	Question	Thematic Area	Bomet	Kericho	Kisumu	Makueni	Overall Total
Decision	To what degree have you been able to influence or change planning and budgeting decisions by participating?	Proposed and is done	10	5	15	17	47
		Proposed and is not done	8	6	2	4	20
		Governor proposal	6	5	1	0	12
		Changes done with no citizens involved	5	1	0	0	6
		Proposed but don't know about implementation	5	3	6	0	14

Results: Response



Factor	Question	Thematic Area	Bomet	Kericho	Kisumu	Makueni	Overall Total
Response	Are we willing to pay for services?	Yes, with quality service	5	4	15	9	33
		Yes, with value/ accountability for money	5	1	6	5	17
		Yes, if fees are re-invested	1	0	0	3	4
		No, is double taxing	1	3	7	0	11

Beanstalk or Rickety Ladders



- Makueni County stands apart as Engaged Budgeting Model
 - Open access to actual expenditures & project status/BOQs
 - High levels of engagement with a transparent process.
 - Prioritization process for citizens who generate project list
 - Highest levels of satisfaction with citizen participation
- Bomet/Kericho/Kisumu Counties using rickety ladders
 - Citizens lack access to actual expenditures information
 - PMCs denied or stalled on project status and BOQs
 - Priorities left to elites in opaque process
 - Substantial dissatisfaction with opaque process
 - Skepticism about corruption level

Checklist for Engaged Budgeting



Does your local government...

- ✓ Provide Open access to actual expenditures & capital projects status?
- ✓ High levels of engagement with a transparent process?
 - Conduct regular (bi)annual citizen surveys
 - Connect survey results with CIP and budget decisions
- ✓ Invite citizens into the budget prioritization process?
 - At neighborhood level and/or city/county level?
- ✓ Invite citizen input at beginning and end of “working group” or COW budget sessions of budget process (as well as at the end)?
- ✓ Use online budget simulation for citizen input in budget trade-offs?