
Timetable of the Federal Budget Process*

The executive budget process is a complex set of activities that includes formulation of the President's budget, interaction with Congress, and execution of the budget. While some of the activities are required by specific dates, many follow a more flexible schedule established by formal and informal rules and procedures. Title III of the Congressional Budget Act establishes a specific timetable for the congressional budget process. These deadlines are also flexible to accommodate the legislative scheduling priorities of the House and Senate Majority Leadership.

Date:	Activities:
Calendar year prior to the year which fiscal year begins	
Spring	OMB issues planning guidance to executive agencies for the budget beginning October 1 of the following year.
Spring and Summer	Agencies begin development of budget requests.
July	OMB issues annual update to Circular A-11, providing detailed instructions for submitting budget data and material for agency
September	Agencies submit initial budget requests to OMB.
October-November	OMB staff review agency budget requests in relation to President's priorities, program performance, and budget
November-December	President, based on recommendations by the OMB director, makes decisions on agency requests. OMB informs agencies of decisions, commonly referred to as OMB "passback."
December	Agencies may appeal these decisions to the OMB director and in some cases directly to the President.
Calendar year in which fiscal year begins	
By first Monday in February	President submits budget to Congress ¹ .
15 February	Congressional Budget Office submits report to Budget Committees.
Not later than 6 weeks after the President submits the budget.	Committees submit views and estimates to Budget Committees. (Frequently, the House Budget Committee sets own date based on Legislative Calendar.)
1 April	Senate Budget Committee reports concurrent resolution on the budget.
15 April	Congress completes action on the concurrent resolution on the budget ² . (This is not signed by the President.)
15 May	Annual appropriation bills may be considered in House ³ .
10 June	House Appropriations Committee reports last annual appropriation bill.
15 June	Congress completes action on reconciliation legislation. (If required by the budget resolution.) ⁴
30 June	House completes action on annual appropriation bills ⁵ .
By 15 July	President submits mid-session review to Congress.

21 August (or within 10 days after approval of a spending bill)	Agencies submit apportionment requests to OMB for each budget account.
10 September (or within 30 days after approval of a spending bill)	OMB apportions available funds to agencies by time period, program, project, or activity.
1 October	Fiscal year begins.
Calendar years in which fiscal year begins and ends	
October-September.	Agencies make allotments, obligate funds, conduct activities, and request supplemental appropriations, if necessary. President may propose supplemental appropriations and impoundments to Congress.
30 September	Fiscal year ends.

* **Sources:** Heniff, Bill (2003) *The Executive Budget Process Timetable*, CRS Report to Congress, available at <http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/RS20152.pdf>; House Committee on Rules, 2006, available at http://www.rules.house.gov/budget_pro.htm.

¹ **The President's Budget Submission.** The President submits a comprehensive budget request to Congress in early February, which outlines the Administration's policy and funding priorities and the economic outlook for the coming fiscal year. This budget, which estimates spending, revenue and borrowing levels, is compiled by the executive Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from input by the various federal agencies, with funding broken down into 20 budget function categories. OMB can be found online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>.

² **Adoption of the Budget Resolution.** House and Senate Committees hold hearings on the President's budget and the Budget Committees report a concurrent resolution on the budget that sets each committee's allocation of spending authority for the next fiscal year and aggregate spending and revenue levels for 5 years. The budget resolution also establishes aggregate totals with respect to revenues and spending for the entire federal budget. This resolution, once adopted, is not law, as it is not signed by the President. The allocations, enforceable through points of order, establish the framework to consider spending and revenue bills in Congress.

³ **Passage of Appropriation Bills.** In May the House begins consideration of the 13 annual appropriation bills for the next fiscal year based on the discretionary spending allocation in the budget resolution. As these bills move through hearings, markups, Floor consideration, and conference they are constrained by the levels and allocations in the budget resolution and the enforcement of the Budget Act and through House and Senate rules.

⁴ **Consideration of Reconciliation Legislation.** If the spending and revenue levels in the budget resolution require changes in existing law, the resolution would contain instructions to committees to report legislation containing such statutory changes. Whether for tax increases or decreases, deficit reduction, mandatory spending increases or decreases or adjustments in the public debt limit, this process has been used to focus many agents on one goal, often in a large bill.

⁵ **Consideration of Authorization Legislation.** Congress considers numerous measures authorizing the appropriation of funds on a myriad of programs each fiscal year. This decision-making is constrained by the Budget Act and through House and Senate rules.