

The Federal Budgeting and Appropriations Process

July – February Executive Branch Process

March – June Legislative Process

July – October Congress Finalizes Spending Levels

BUDGET FORMULATION

- OMB gives guidance to federal agencies about levels of funding and priorities.
- The agencies work within those guidelines to structure a budget proposal.
- OMB makes final decisions about the agencies' proposed budget.

BUDGET SUBMISSION

- Generally, the President's Budget Request is submitted to Congress on or about the 1st Monday in February.

HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGETS

- The House and Senate develop their own budget resolutions to set spending levels. These will often deviate from each other as well as from the President's request. These resolutions are NOT signed into law.

APPROPRIATIONS

- The House and Senate Appropriations Committees, through their 12 subcommittees, hold hearings to examine the budget requests and needs of federal spending programs.

APPROPRIATIONS CONT.

- The House and Senate then produce appropriations bills to fund the federal government.
- These bills are "marked-up," amended as needed, and approved by the Appropriations Committees.

FLOOR CONSIDERATION

- After approval by the Appropriations Committees, the bills head to the House and Senate floors where they may be further amended and eventually passed.
- Most times, the bills passed by the House and Senate differ in some significant ways and must be reconciled.

FINAL PASSAGE

- Once a final bill has been negotiated between the two chambers, it must then pass the House and Senate and be signed by the President.
- If Congress cannot agree on new funding levels before Oct. 1, a continuing resolution is required.