



Federal Budget and Appropriations Process Timeline

This table displays typical timelines for budget and appropriations activities, but exact dates vary.

- Congressional Activity
- ❖ Executive Branch Activity

January	❖ President signals priorities in the State of the Union
February	❖ President's Budget Sent to Congress (Feb. 5, 2007) ➤ Budget Committees' hearings on Congressional Budget Resolution
March	➤ Appropriations, Authorizing Hearings on President's Budget begin ➤ Budget Committees drafting annual resolution; possible House and Senate floor action on their versions of the Congressional Budget Resolution ➤ Members send priority requests to Appropriations Committees
April	➤ Congressional Budget Resolution debate continues ➤ April 15 - Statutory deadline for completion of Congressional Budget Resolution (frequently missed) ➤ Appropriators prepare priorities
May	➤ Congressional Budget Resolution concludes ➤ May 15 – Statutory date after which appropriators may begin to consider bills even if Congressional Budget Resolution is not finalized ➤ Appropriations Committees issue 302(b) allocations to subcommittees
June	➤ House Appropriations subcommittees/full committee markups ➤ House floor debate on appropriations bills
July	➤ July 4th Week Recess ➤ Senate Appropriations subcommittees/full committee markups ➤ Senate floor consideration of appropriations bills ❖ Federal agencies begin to formulate the next fiscal year's budget proposal
August	➤ House/Senate in recess during August ➤ House/Senate appropriations staff begin conference negotiations
September	➤ Appropriations House/Senate conference negotiations begin ➤ House and Senate conferees meet ➤ Conference bills approved by full House, full Senate ➤ President signs bills into law after conference bill approved by Congress
October	❖ October 1 – New federal fiscal year begins ➤ Any appropriations activity that didn't get done in September continues... ➤ Continuing Resolutions begin (if necessary) ❖ Federal agencies send proposals for next fiscal year's budget to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
November	❖ Federal agencies and OMB negotiate next fiscal year's budget proposal
December	❖ Federal agencies and OMB finalize next fiscal year's budget proposal



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

777 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

202.986.1032 (tel) 202.986.1038 (fax)

www.NARC.org

General Timeline of Federal Budget Process

Early fall

Agencies send initial budget requests to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

November

OMB reviews, modifies, and sends back to agencies.

December

Agencies make final appeals to OMB.

January

OMB resolves appeals and assembles the final budget request.

February to March

President submits budget request to Congress.

Administration and agency officials testify in support of the budget request.

Appropriations subcommittees (House and Senate) hold hearings with agency heads and outside public witnesses.

May

House and Senate adopt budget resolutions prepared by Budget Committees.

Appropriations Committees (House and Senate) make 302(b) allocations*.

June

House Appropriations Subcommittees prepare appropriations bills.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittees revise the House-passed bills.

July-August

House passes spending bills; Senate passes revised bills.

September

House-Senate conference committees resolve differences and agree on final versions of spending bills.

President signs or vetoes final bills.

October 1

Beginning of fiscal year.

Congress passes continuing resolutions to maintain funding for any agencies affected by appropriations bills that have not been passed and signed by the beginning of the fiscal year.

*After the Budget Resolution sets the overall level of discretionary spending, each appropriations committee divides the total among its thirteen subcommittees; "302(b)" refers to the section of the law governing this procedure.