



CALIFORNIA BUDGET BILL PROCESS

Department of Finance
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Governor
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Assembly Floor
Find your Assembly Member:
<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/>
(click on: "find my district")

Senate Floor
Find your Senator:
<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/>
(click on: "find my district")

Assembly Budget Committee

Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

Assembly Budget Subcommittees

- ◆ Health and Human Services
- ◆ Education Finance
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ State Administration
- ◆ Information Technology and Transportation

Senate Budget Subcommittees

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Resources, Environmental Protection, Judiciary and Transportation
- ◆ Health, Human Services, Labor and Veteran Affairs
- ◆ Legislative, Executive, Public Safety and General Government
- ◆ Energy, Executive and Off-Budget Fiscal Issues

Assembly Budget Committee

Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

Assembly Floor

Senate Floor

Budget Conference Committee

Assembly Floor

Senate Floor

Governor



California Budget Bill Process Advocacy Calendar

June-December:

- The **Department of Finance (DOF)** analyzes budget proposals that are developed and submitted by all of the state departments. The DOF then develops an expenditure plan for the Governor's consideration after evaluating state revenue projections along with the state department budget proposals.

January-March:

- The **California Governor** considers the expenditure plan from the DOF and makes necessary revisions. The Governor then releases this budget proposal to the public and introduces the Budget Bill simultaneously in both the Assembly and the Senate.
- The **Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)** will produce a comprehensive "**Analysis of the Budget Bill**" which includes program backgrounds and recommendations. This analysis is considered as budget subcommittee hearings begin.
- Within each House of the California State Legislature, the Budget Bill is referred to many different **subcommittees** according to subject matter. The **Assembly Budget Committee** and the **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee** are responsible for separating the Budget Bill into different topic areas.

March-May:

- While the Budget Bill is being reviewed in the Assembly and Senate subcommittees, public hearings are held to garner input regarding the Budget. **This juncture is the best time for advocates, community members, state departments and other stakeholders to provide their input.**
- At this stage, it is important to contact the **Governor, State Assembly Member, State Senator** as well as **committee and subcommittee members** in order to be an effective and influential advocate.

May:

- The Governor provides updated information regarding current state expenditures and revenues; this is commonly known as the “**Governor’s May Revise**”. This information is considered in each subcommittee before making any final budgetary decisions.
- The subcommittees present their revised Budget Bill and submit it to their respective budget committee to adopt. Thereafter, the budget committees then introduce it on the **Assembly** or **Senate floor**.
- The Assembly and Senate are then responsible for reviewing the Budget Bill and then passing it onto the other House for concurrence, meaning to see if the two Houses are in agreement.

June:

- If the two Houses do not agree, the Budget Bill goes to the **Budget Conference Committee** who is tasked with finding compromises between the two versions of the Bill. This committee is comprised of three members of each House.
- This committee then presents the Bill to each house again for approval.
- When the two Houses cannot compromise, a conference committee known as the “**Big 5**” is convened. The Big 5 consists of the Governor, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the minority leaders of both Houses to relieve the impasse.
- The Budget Bill then goes back to both Houses again for approval. Upon approval, the Bill is sent to the Governor for approval.
- Constitutionally, the Governor only has 12 working days to **approve** the Bill with his signature or **veto** the Bill upon receipt from the Legislature. Meanwhile, the Governor may veto certain components of the bill through a “*line-item veto*” which the State Legislature may override with a **2/3 vote** from both Houses.

July:

- The new fiscal year begins on July 1.

For more information or questions please contact:

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