

Significant Events in the Budget and Appropriations Process

Date	President's Budget	Budget Resolution	Budget Reconciliation	Appropriation
First Monday in February	President sends budget proposal to Congress			Congress receives President's budget proposal
Mid-February		Congress receives CBO report on estimated spending and revenues based on President's budget		
Late February–Early March		Budget Committees receive views and estimates from appropriation and authorizing committees		
Early March				Committees begin budget hearings with Department officials
March-June	Spring Call – OJP begins planning for budget submission two years in advance			
By April 1		Senate Budget Committee reports Budget Resolution (assuming that the House has reported a resolution before this date)		
By April 15		Congress completes action on Budget Resolution	Reconciliation instructions are sent to committees as specified in the Resolution	
By May 15				House may consider appropriation bills if Budget Resolution has not passed both houses
Early June	OJP submits budget to DOJ's Justice Management Division (JMD) for review			House Appropriations Committee reports the last annual appropriation bill
By June 15			Congress completes Reconciliation Bill	
By June 30				House completes action on appropriation bills
July	OJP AAG has budget hearings with the Attorney General			
Late July	JMD Passback and Appeals			
August	OJP AAG has budget meetings with senior DOJ leadership			Senate reports last appropriation bill, completes action on appropriations bills
September 1	DOJ's budget request is submitted to OMB for review			Conference committee process begins to resolve differences between House, Senate appropriations bills

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October 1				Fiscal year begins (if appropriation bills have not been enacted, a Continuing Resolution is necessary)
Late November	OMB decisions are passed back to DOJ			
Late November/Early December	Critical issues are appealed to OMB and the Administration			
Early December	Once appeals are resolved, OMB passback decisions are finalized			
Late December	Final version of DOJ's budget request is submitted to OMB for inclusion in the President's Budget request			

Note: This schedule reflects an ideal budget timeline: dates for submission of the President's Budget and completion of major steps in the Congressional appropriations process may change significantly because of practical considerations and delays in the legislative process.

Key Terms and Definitions

- **Appropriation:** An act of Congress that enables Federal agencies to spend money for specific purposes.
- **Budget Reconciliation:** The process Congress uses to force its committees to comply with the fiscal policy established in its budget resolution.
- **Budget Resolution:** Annual framework within which Congress makes its decisions about spending and taxes. The framework includes targets for total spending, total revenues, and the deficit, as well as allocations within the spending target for discretionary and mandatory spending.
- **Congressional Budget Office (CBO):** Provides assistance to Congress in fulfilling its responsibilities to ensure effective congressional control over the budget process, determines the appropriate level of Federal revenues and expenditures each year, and establishes national budget priorities.
- **Justice Management Division (JMD) Passback:** JMD provides the Department's decisions on an agency's budget.
- **Office of Management and Budget (OMB):** Evaluates, formulates, and coordinates management procedures and program objectives within and among Federal departments and agencies. It also controls the administration of the Federal budget, while routinely providing the President with recommendations regarding budget proposals and relevant legislative enactments.
- **OMB Passback:** OMB's decisions on an agency's budget.
- **President's Budget:** Proposal sent by the President to Congress each year as required by the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, as amended.