

BUDGET PROCESS OVERVIEW

Under the leadership of the Florida Legislature, Governor Charlie Crist, and Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Florida's budget is developed with a focus on the needs of the state and its citizens and on the results of government programs and services. It provides information about policy goals, objectives, accomplishments and effects. The budget is a statement of Florida's program plan, a description of how resources may be used, and an assessment of the impact services should have on people and the environment.

Florida's budget process is governed by the laws and Constitution of the state. The process involves citizen input, state agencies, the Governor, and the Legislature. The development of the state budget begins more than a year before its effective date, and the budget is not final until adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Legislature will convene in its regular session beginning in March. The budget passed by the Legislature is valid for one year, beginning each July 1, and ending on June 30.

The budget development process has three major phases: agency requests, Governor's recommendations and legislative adoption. Following instructions issued jointly by the Governor's Office and the Legislature in July, state agencies begin developing long-range program plans and budget requests which lay out the programs and funding needs of each agency for the next fiscal year. By mid-October, these requests are submitted to the Governor for consideration in the recommended budget.

The Governor's Office analyzes the agency requests and works to develop the Governor's budget recommendations. The Governor's recommendations are based on state priorities and economic forecasts and reflect a balance between the Governor's policies and available revenues. The Governor's budget recommendations are typically submitted to the Legislature thirty days before the start of the legislative session each year.

Following presentation of the Governor's recommended budget, the Legislature begins its review during committee meetings prior to the start of the legislative session. While considering the proposed budget, legislative committees hold public meetings with agency leaders and interested citizens.

On opening day of the regular legislative session, the Governor delivers an annual "State of the State" address. At this time, the Governor outlines economic trends and conditions facing the state, the needs created by these conditions, and the programs being advanced to address these needs.

During the legislative session, the Florida House and Senate each pass a budget reflecting the priorities of its members. These budgets are referred to as general appropriations bills. Differences between the Senate and House budgets are resolved in a joint conference committee.

The report of this conference committee becomes the General Appropriations Act and is signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and is presented to the Governor. The Governor has line item veto authority which may be used to delete any specific budget item within the appropriations act. Once the Governor has completed his line item vetoes, he signs the General Appropriations Act into law, establishing the statewide budget for the next fiscal year. A two-thirds majority vote of both the Senate and House is required to overturn any of the Governor's line item vetoes.

State Budget Process Time Table

Governor/ Office of Policy and Budget and the Legislature	State Agencies	Governor/ Office of Policy and Budget	Legislature	Governor/ Office of Policy and Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Instructions to Departments for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Long-Range Program Plan ◦ Legislative Budget Request ◦ Capital Improvements Program Plan ◦ Information Technology Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Long-Range Program Plan • Prepare Legislative Budget Request • Prepare Capital Improvements Program Plan • Prepare Information Technology Plan • Prepare Internal Operating Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/Analyze: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Long-Range Program Plans ◦ Legislative Budget Requests ◦ Capital Improvements Program Plans ◦ Information Technology Plans • Hold Public Hearing • Develop Recommendations Based on Governor's Priorities and Available Revenues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Appropriations Act • Review Governor's Recommendations • Review/Analyze/Revise Budget • Appropriations Act Passed by Both Houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor may Line Item Veto Specific Appropriations • Governor Signs Budget into Law • Create Agency Operating Budgets from General Appropriations Act
May - July	May - October	September - January	January - May	May - July