



How the State Budget Gets Passed

How it Happens: Each year the Governor proposes a budget. It isn't law yet though, until the legislature approves it. It's in the annual process of legislative debate, negotiation and modification that advocates can participate and make a difference in the outcome.

START ▶

① Departments & agencies prepare & submit requests to the Governor's Dept. of Finance for inclusion in the Gov's budget.

Governor's budget distributed to legislature & the public.

③ Legislative Analyst releases **Analysis of the Budget Bill**

⑤ Dept of Finance releases updated fiscal information and policies "May Revise"

⑦ "Big Five"--Governor and leaders of each party in Senate and Assembly--may meet to work out controversial and "big ticket" issues

Constitutional deadline for legislative passage of the budget, requires 2/3 majority

Constitutional deadline for the Governor's signature or veto of the Budget Bill. New fiscal year begins.

② Gov's budget introduced in Assembly as Assembly bill(AB).

Gov's budget introduced in Senate as Senate bill(SB).

④ Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee holds hearings on Budget Bill and Modifies content

Assembly Budget and Fiscal Review Committee holds hearings on Budget Bill and modifies content

⑥ Full Senate votes on Budget Bill as referred from committee

Full Assembly votes on Budget Bill as referred from committee

⑧ Two-house budget conference reconciles differences between the Assembly and Senate versions and sends the bill back to the floor of each for final approval

⑩ Final floor votes; Budget Bill & trailer bills sent to the Governor

⑪ Governor "blue pencils" (reduces or eliminates) amounts or Budget Bill language he doesn't want, then signs the bill into law, effective immediately.

⑨ Legislation needed to implement the budget "trailer bills" drafted & enacted

▶ **FINISH**

budget prepared	budget introduced		budget hearings	first floor vote	conference committee	floor passage	Governor signs
summer & fall	January 10	late February	March	Mid-May	Late May-June	June 15	July 1

Taken from the UCLA Community Scholars Program 2003 *The California Budget : Taking Apart the Pieces*. Source: California Budget Project, *Dollars and Democracy An Advocate's Guide to the State Budget Process*