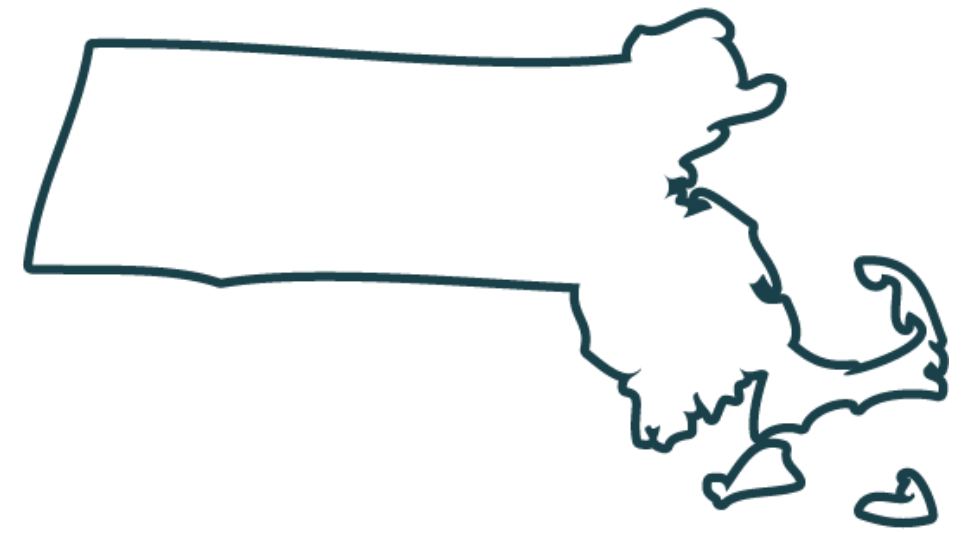


The Budget Process in Massachusetts



July-October: Agencies prepare spending plans for the next fiscal year. Agency requests are submitted to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F).

October-December: A&F examines agency requests to align them with the Governor's policy goals. Meanwhile, legislators begin to consider their budget "asks" for Ways & Means leadership.

January: Governor files their budget, "House 1."

February-March: Joint Ways & Means Committee holds regional public hearings on the Governor's budget proposal.

April-May: House Ways & Means releases its budget proposal. Representatives file budget amendments to increase appropriations or add new items. The budget is then debated on the House floor and a final House budget is adopted.

May: Senate Ways & Means releases their budget proposal. Senators file budget amendments to increase appropriations or add new items. The budget is debated on the Senate floor and a final Senate budget is adopted.

May-June: A Conference Committee (3 Representative; 3 Senators) reconciles the House and Senate versions of the budget.

June-July: The House and Senate pass the Conference Committee budget.



July: The Governor reviews and approves or vetoes the budget in part or in its entirety. The legislature can override any of the Governor's vetoes until September with a two-thirds roll call vote in both chambers.

The Massachusetts legislature operates on a two year schedule.

The first year runs from January through mid-November.

The second year runs from January to late July.



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Questions?

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