The National Budget Process

Cabinet secretaries discuss program objectives with the President.

Jan 200X

Feb.

March

April

Office of Management and Budget provides guidance and preliminary budget limits to agencies.

May

June

July

Aug.

Sept.

Agencies submit budget requests to Cabinet departments.

Cabinet departments submit programs and costs to OMB.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec.

Jan 200X

Feb.

OMB sends president's budget decisions back to departments.

An administration panel revisits the previous administration's decisions and hears agency's appeals.

President submits budget outline to Congress.

March

April

May

June

July

Aug.

Sept.

Oct. 1

Congressional committees submit their views and estimates to the budget committees.

President submits final budget to Congress.

Congress reports a budget resolution by agreeing on revenue and spending targets.

House appropriates panels hold hearings and markups on spending numbers.

Congress goes into summer recess.

Conference consideration, final passage, and presidential signature bring budget process to a close.

Fiscal year begins.

Sources: Heritage Foundation, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and Congressional Quarterly