

# OHIO'S BUDGET TIMELINE



## A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING OHIO'S BIENNIAL BUDGETING PROCESS

Ohio's operating budget is processed and approved every two years through the Governor, House, and State Senate. Ohio's budget bills are legislation that set the state's spending and funding priorities and allocate the state's financial resources. The budget also lays out policy priorities of the governor and the General Assembly.

OEFFA's Policy Program aims to help make the state budget more understandable, accessible, and engaging for our members and farmer advocates. We work with OEFFA members and Ohio's elected officials throughout the budget process to ensure that our state budget includes support for farmers, local food systems, and environmental stewardship. Keep in mind, this timeline is an estimate, and can change from year to year depending on political climate, etc.

### JANUARY

- The Governor, through the Office of Budget and Management, works with the Ohio Legislative Service Commission to draft the Governor's proposed budget.

### EARLY FEBRUARY

- The Governor's proposed budget recommendations are introduced as the Executive Budget bill in the Ohio House of Representatives. The governor's budget is known as the "as introduced" budget and does not receive a bill number until it is introduced to the House.

### FEBRUARY - MARCH

- The House holds committee hearings and offers amendments to the Executive Budget bill. Constituents and stakeholders are able to meet with Representatives' offices and offer public testimony to committees at this time.
- The House Finance Committee reports the House version of the budget bill out of committee.
- The House of Representatives votes and passes the House version of the budget bill.

### APRIL - MAY

- The House version of the budget bill is introduced in the Ohio Senate.
- The Senate holds committee hearings and offers amendments to the House version of the bill. Constituents and stakeholders are able to meet with Senator's offices and offer public testimony to committees at this time.
- The Senate Finance Committee votes the bill out of committee, and it heads to the full Senate for a vote.
- The Senate votes and passes the Senate version of the budget bill.

### JUNE

- There will be differences between the Executive, House-passed and the Senate-passed versions of the budget and a conference committee is required to reconcile these differences. The conference committee is a temporary committee made up of members of both the House and the Senate.
- The conference committee reports a final version of the bill and the House and Senate vote to pass the budget bill. The House and Senate cannot make changes to the bill at this point and must either adopt or reject what the conference committee has presented.
- Once the House and Senate agree on and approve a final budget, the bill is then sent to the Governor.
- The Governor may sign, veto, or sign it with line-item vetoes. Line-item vetoes are sent back to the House and Senate with an explanation for each veto. A three-fifths majority of both the House and Senate is required to override a veto.

### JUNE 30

- Deadline to pass the budget bill and deliver it to the Governor to be signed.

### JULY 1

- The main operating budget for the new fiscal year begins.



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