

GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

JANUARY THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL

The Governor proposes a budget (known as the "Executive Budget") & submits it to the Legislature, usually with a big speech.

FEBRUARY BUDGET PRIORITY LETTERS

Senators then submit letters to the Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart Cousins, detailing priorities for their constituents & the funding they want included in the final budget.

MID TO LATE MARCH THREE-WAY NEGOTIATIONS

The Governor, Senate Majority Leader, & Assembly Speaker meet to negotiate over differences in the three proposed budgets. These meetings are private – legislators like myself cannot participate in or observe them. However, Senate Majority Leader, & Assembly Speaker will often check in with their Legislators to strategize & discuss.

Particularly after the court case of *Silver v. Pataki*, the Governor's office has outsized power in these negotiations and can individually reject any spending items that the legislature tries to include without her approval.



LATE JAN-FEB BUDGET HEARINGS

The Legislature conducts a series of hearings to get testimony from the Governor's office, policy experts, & advocates to determine how the Governor's proposed budget would impact New York.

MID MARCH THE "ONE HOUSE" BUDGETS

After some intense discussion & debate, the Senate & Assembly each vote on a resolution outlining their own proposed state budget. Some years these resolutions are practically identical to each other, other times they are different.

APRIL 1st FINAL BUDGET VOTE

Due April 1st

Once all three agree, the final budget is made public & put to a vote in both the Assembly & the Senate. If it passes, it is sent to the Governor to be signed or vetoed.

The resulting budget takes effect on June 1st each year.

In New York, a "Fiscal Year" goes from June 1st of one calendar year to May 31st of the next calendar year. This new budget will be for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (you might see this written as "FY 23-24.")

