

Budget process for the 2016-2017 biennium (dates of events are approximate)

By the Texas Legislative Reference Library

Abbreviations: LBB: Legislative Budget Board
GOBPP: Governor's Office of Budget, Planning & Policy
LAR: Legislative Appropriations Request

May - June 2014

- The Legislative Budget Board (LBB) sends Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) [instructions](#) to all state agencies
- [LAR policy letter](#) June 23, 2014

July - August 2014

- State agencies develop strategic plans and associated Legislative Appropriations Requests (LARs). These are submitted to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning & Policy (GOBPP). [2016-2017 LAR submissions](#)

Sept. - Dec. 2014

- The LBB & the GOBPP hold hearings on each agency's strategic plan and LAR.
- Based on the hearings, the LBB and the GOBPP separately prepare budget recommendations to be presented to the Legislature in January at the beginning of the legislative session.
- The Texas Comptroller publishes the Texas Annual Cash Report, detailing revenues and expenditures of state funds from the previous fiscal year. View: [Texas Annual Cash Report, Fiscal 2014](#)

January 2015

- The 84th Regular Legislative Session begins on January 13, 2015.
- The Texas Comptroller presents the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) to the Legislature, providing a formal estimate of the funds likely to be available from taxes and other revenue sources over the next two years. View: [Biennial Revenue Estimate 2016-17](#)
- The Senate and the House present preliminary funding recommendations and file the General Appropriations bills. View: [House version](#) [Senate version](#)
- The Governor submits budget recommendations to the Legislature. View: [Governor's Budget 2016-2017](#).

Feb. - March 2015

- The Senate Finance Committee and subcommittees and the House Appropriations Committee and subcommittees conduct hearings on their versions of the general appropriations bill.

April - May 2015

- Hearings end and the process of "markup" begins. The Senate and House committees revise their appropriations bills to reflect their funding decisions. The revised bills are issued as committee reports, which are sent to each chamber for a vote by the full body. The committee reports may be further amended before passage. (The House and the Senate historically have taken turns on whose bill is passed first to go to the other chamber for consideration. The other chamber usually substitutes its own version of the bill.)
- The Lt. Governor of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoint a [conference committee](#) to reconcile differences between the House-passed and the Senate-passed versions of the appropriations bill.
- The conference committee drafts a budget that reconciles differences between the House and Senate versions and files it as the conference committee report. It is sent to both chambers for final approval. Further amendment is prohibited. View [Conference Committee Report on HB 1](#)
- During the regular session, the Legislature passes one supplementary budget measure: [HB 2](#)
- The last day of the 84th Regular Legislative Session is June 1, 2015.

June 2015

- Once approved, the conference committee report is sent to the Comptroller for certification that the bill is within available revenue, and to the Governor for signature. The Governor may veto individual spending items (line items). [View line-item vetoes on the 2016-2017 budget bill](#)

Sept. 1, 2015

- Fiscal Year 2016 begins September 1, 2015; agencies begin spending appropriated funds.
- During the two years of the budget cycle, state agencies report to the LBB regarding their performance relative to performance targets. Some agencies will be audited by the State Auditor's Office (SAO).
- The Texas Comptroller presents certification revenue estimates, detailing the data used to certify the General Appropriations Act for 2016-17 and other appropriations bills approved by the 84th Legislature. [View the 2016-17 Certification Revenue Estimate](#) (Oct. 13, 2015)

Dec. 2015

- The Texas Comptroller publishes the Texas Annual Cash Report, detailing revenues and expenditures from the previous fiscal year. [View the Annual Cash Report](#)
- Fiscal Size-up will be produced biennially by the LBB, describing how funds were appropriated. [View Fiscal Size-up, 2016-17](#)