



# ***FOLLOWING THE MONEY***



*How the California state budget process works and **how you can participate.***





*The California state budget is developed by the Governor and is finalized with the input of the state legislature.*

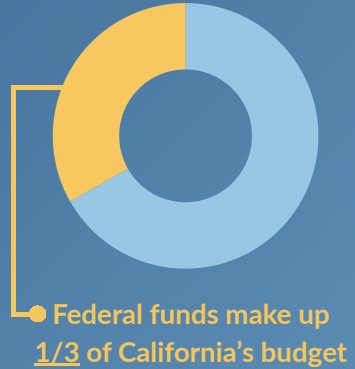
*Although the decision-making happens in Sacramento, **Californians across the state** have the power to make their voices heard throughout the budget process.*



# HOW FEDERAL FUNDS AFFECT CALIFORNIA'S STATE BUDGET

When the federal government makes large funding cuts or threatens to withhold funds from states, California is left with a sizable hole in its budget.

The Trump administration and congressional Republicans already cut federal funds for healthcare and food assistance through the One Big Ugly Bill in 2025, and have threatened to cut even more funds to states, like California, that have policies that oppose the MAGA agenda, including states that provide abortions, provide health care to immigrants with their own funds, states with sanctuary laws, institutions that serve diversity initiatives, and more.



# STATE BUDGET TIMELINE

**JAN**

The Governor releases the proposed state budget by January 10th for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts on July 1st.



**JAN - APR**

Both houses of the state legislature, the Assembly and Senate, hold budget subcommittee public hearings to review the Governor's proposal.



These public hearings include opportunities for public comment.



**MAY**

GOVERNOR'S  
MAY REVISION

The Governor releases the revised budget proposal, known as the "May Revise," to account for any changes to the state's projected income.

**MAY - JUN**

The Assembly and State Senate finalize their versions of the state budget and combine them into one.



Contact your legislators to advocate for the funding you want to see prioritized.



\*Opportunities to get engaged by contacting your legislators, participating in lobby days, and advocating for community resources

# STATE BUDGET TIMELINE



**JUN**

The legislature must pass the initial budget bill with a simple majority (50% + 1) by June 15, which will become the Budget Act once it's signed into law.

The Governor and state legislature work together to reach a final budget agreement. The changes will be reflected as amendments in the initial budget bill and include policy bills to implement the budget.



Final push: contact the Governor's office to advocate for budget bills that affect your community.

**JUN - JUL**

The governor signs the bills in the budget package, which goes into effect on July 1.

**AUG - SEP**

The legislature adjusts expenditures in the Budget Act. The Governor signs budget-related bills by September.



**AUG - DEC**

The Governor prepares a budget proposal for the next fiscal year, and the process repeats.



\*Opportunities to get engaged by contacting your legislators, participating in lobby days, and advocating for community resources

# ***THE POWER OF ADVOCACY***

***Unlike the federal government, the state must have a balanced budget in which the amount of expenditures equals the amount of revenue. California has experienced a budget deficit for several consecutive years. Deficits can be fueled by natural disasters, state and national emergencies, increased costs for services like healthcare, stock market instability, overprojection of state income, and more.***

***When faced with economic uncertainty and federal funding cuts, the state must make difficult decisions, including spending cuts or funding delays. As a result, funding for resources like food assistance, healthcare access, and other safety net programs is often reduced or delayed while prison and police spending remain unchanged or even increased.***

***It is up to Californians to participate in the state budget process by advocating for the needs of their communities and electing leaders who prioritize working-class Californians instead of billionaires, corporations, and special interests.***



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about the California state budget process and ways to advocate for your community by checking out these additional resources:

## **The California Budget and Policy Center**

[calbudgetcenter.org](http://calbudgetcenter.org)

A research and analysis nonprofit advancing public policies that expand opportunities and promote well-being for all Californians.

## **Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)**

[curbprisonspending.org](http://curbprisonspending.org)

A Black-led statewide coalition dedicated to shifting spending away from incarceration and toward healthy community investments.

## **The State of California Department of Finance**

[dof.ca.gov](http://dof.ca.gov)

The Governor's chief fiscal policy advisor.

## TAKE ACTION



Read floor reports, watch live hearings, see committee staff, and submit written testimony:

California State Assembly Committee on Budget:

[abgt.assembly.ca.gov](http://abgt.assembly.ca.gov)

California State Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

[sbud.senate.ca.gov](http://sbud.senate.ca.gov)

Contact our state lawmakers:

Find & contact your state legislators:

[CourageScore.org](http://CourageScore.org)

Contact the Governor's office:

[gov.ca.gov/contact](http://gov.ca.gov/contact)

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