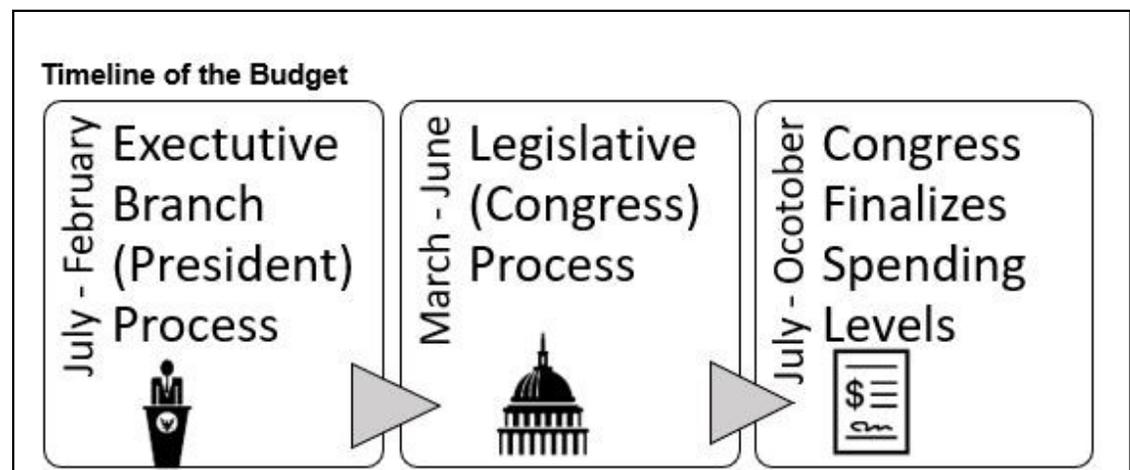


The Federal Budget Process

5 Key Steps in the Federal Budget Process

1. The President submits a budget request to Congress.
2. The House of Representatives and Senate pass budget resolutions (or spending guidelines).
3. House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees “markup” the 12 appropriations bills.
4. The House of Representatives and Senate vote on appropriations bills and agree on differences.
5. The President signs each appropriations bill and the budget becomes law. This must happen by September 30th.



When the budget process is not completed by Oct. 1, Congress may pass a [continuing resolution](#) so that federal agencies continue to receive funding until the full budget is passed. A continuing resolution provides temporary funding for federal agencies until new appropriations bills become law. When Congress does not pass a continuing resolution by October 1, it can result in a government shutdown.