## THE FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS **Approximate** Dates Early. President sends Budget Proposal to Capitol Hill Senate Budget Committee drafts **House Budget Committee drafts Budget Resolution (broad outline only) Budget Resolution (broad outline only) House passes Budget Resolution** Senate passes Budget Resolution House and Senate agree on Joint Budget Resolution House passes Joint Budget Senate passes Joint Budget Resolution Resolution Appropriations Process begins (based on budget outline within joint Budget Resolution) **House Appropriations Committee Senate Appropriations Committee** makes allocations to 10 makes allocations to 12 subcommittees subcommittees House Appropriations Subcommittees Senate Appropriations Subcommittees mark up Draft Bill; Vote; mark up Draft Bill; Vote; refer Bill to Full Committee refer Bill to Full Committee House Appropriations Committee Senate Appropriations Committee marks up Draft Bill; Votes; marks up Draft Bill; Votes; refers Bill to Full House refers Bill to Full House Full House votes on Bill Full Senate votes on Bill House and Senate negotiate differencesbetween two versions of Bill; Agree on final version September Full House votes on Full Senate votes on final version of Bill final version of Bill President signs or vetoes final version of Bill October ·

## When to Act: A Federal Budget Timeline

While the politics of the federal budget change from year to year, the budgeting process follows a series of annual deadlines. Constituent contact with congressional offices is appropriate at any time during the year, but certain points in the budget process provide opportunities for your input to make a direct impact on the budget-in-the-making. Those points are highlighted below; the vertical line represents one calendar year, beginning in January and ending in December:

## **Budgetary Event**

Early February: President sends budget proposal to Capitol Hill

House and Senate Budget Committees draft budget resolutions

April.15: House and Senate agree on Joint Budget Resolution

Appropriations Committee receives spending allocations

Appropriations Cmte. divides allocation among subcommittees

Appropriations subcommittees mark up draft bills, vote

Full Appropriations Committee marks up each funding bill, votes

Full House and Senate vote on each funding bill

July or September: House and Senate negotiate differences on two versions of bill

Full House and Senate vote on compromise bill

by October 1: President signs or vetoes bill

## **Constituent Action**

December, January:

Contact president before budget proposal finalized.

February:

Contact Budget Committee members.

April, May, June:

Contact Appropriations Subcommittee members.

June:

Contact Appropriations Committee members.

July, August, September:

Contact House and Senate negotiators.

September:

Contact White House in favor of signing or veto.

November, December:

During congressional recess visit members in districts, host lab