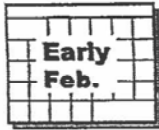
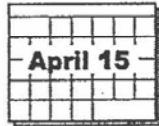
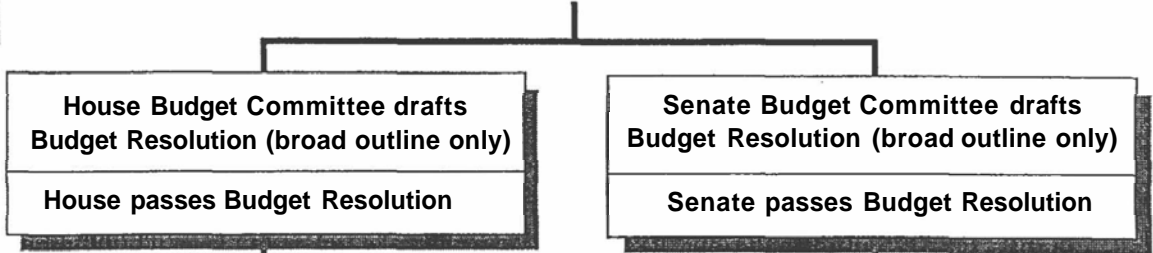


THE FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS

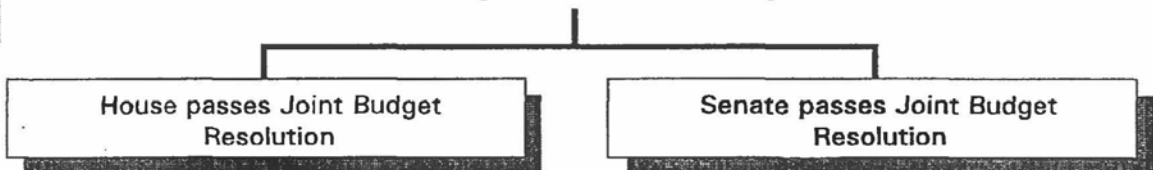
Approximate Dates



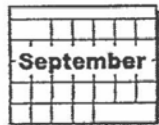
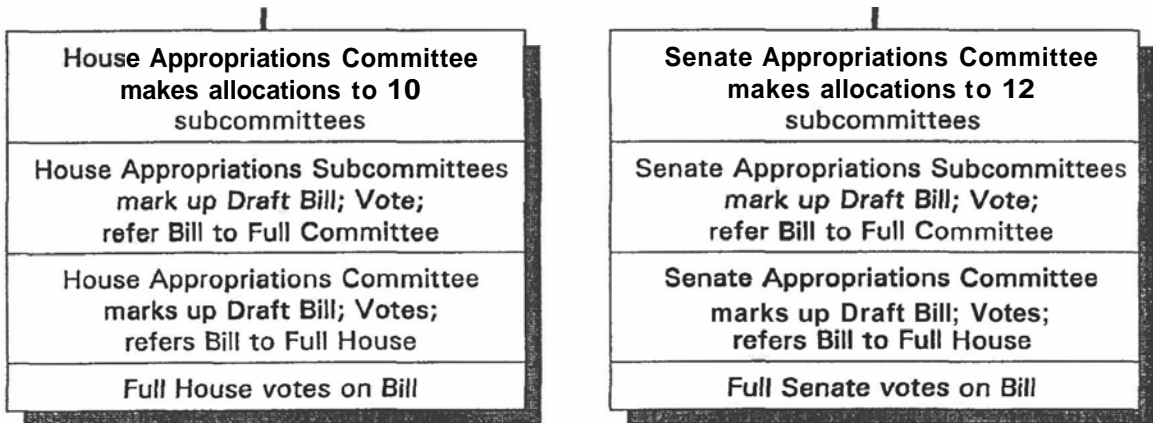
President sends Budget Proposal to Capitol Hill



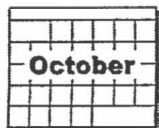
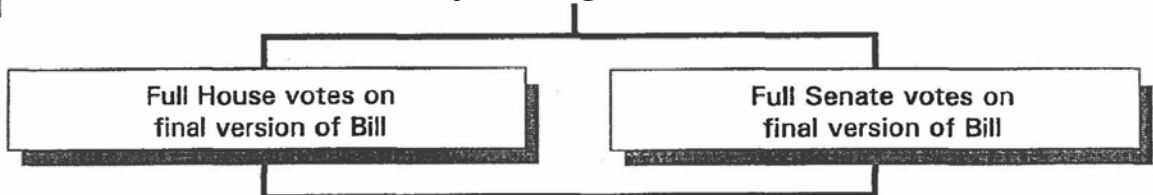
House and Senate agree on Joint Budget Resolution



Appropriations Process begins (based on budget outline within joint Budget Resolution)



House and Senate negotiate differences between two versions of Bill; Agree on final version



President signs or vetoes final version of Bill

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	Constituent Action
	December, January: Contact president before budget proposal finalized.
	February: Contact Budget Committee members.
House and Senate Budget Committees draft budget resolutions	
	April, May, June: Contact Appropriations Subcommittee members.
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	June: Contact Appropriations Committee members.
Full House and Senate vote on each funding bill	
	July, August, September: Contact House and Senate negotiators.
July or September: House and Senate negotiate differences on two versions of bill	
Full House and Senate vote on compromise bill	
	September: Contact White House in favor of signing or veto.
by October 1: President signs or vetoes bill	
	November, December: During congressional recess visit members in districts, host lab visits.