

HOW VIRGINIA'S BUDGET IS DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED

Virginia has a biennial (two-year) budget system. The biennial budget is enacted into law in even-numbered years, and amendments to it are enacted in odd-numbered years. For example, the current budget for the 2008-2010 biennium was adopted by the 2008 General Assembly. Amendments to this two-year budget (Chapter 879) will be considered by the General Assembly during its 2009 session.



Governor Kaine will present his amendments to the 2008-2010 biennial budget in the following pages.

Developing the Commonwealth's budget is a process that takes many months, involving participation from state agencies, the legislature, and the public. The process includes five distinct phases: agency budget preparation, budget development, Governor's and secretarial review, legislative action, and budget implementation.

Key Dates for Development of Amendments to the 2008-2010 Biennial Budget	
October 2008	Instructions are issued to agencies on preparing and submitting their proposed budget amendments.
November 5, 2008	Agencies submit their proposed budget amendments to DPB.
December 17, 2008	Governor submits recommended budget to the General Assembly.
January 14, 2009	General Assembly convenes.
February 8, 2009 (tentative date)	Money committees report budgets.
February 12, 2009 (tentative date)	Budget bill crossover occurs.
February 28, 2009 (tentative date)	General Assembly adjourns.
April 8, 2008 (tentative date)	Reconvened General Assembly session is conducted.