

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 2018-2020 biennium was adopted by the 2018 General Assembly. Amendments to this two-year budget were considered by the General Assembly during its 2019 session.

Governor Northam will present the 2020-2022 biennial budget and amendments to the FY 2020 budget (referred to as the Caboose) in the following pages. The General Assembly will adopt the budget during the 2020 session.

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 Budget Dates	
August 23, 2019	Instructions issued to agencies on preparing and submitting their proposed budget amendments
September 20, 2019	Agencies submitted their proposed budget amendments to the Department of Planning and Budget
December 17, 2019	Governor submits recommended budget to the General Assembly
January 8, 2020	General Assembly convenes
February 9, 2020	Budget bill crossover occurs*
March 14, 2020	General Assembly adjourns*
April 15, 2020	Reconvened General Assembly session occurs*

*indicates tentative dates