

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 2020-2022 biennium was adopted by the 2020 General Assembly and amendments to 2020-2022 biennial budget will be considered by the General Assembly during its 2021 session.

Governor Northam will present his amendments to the 2020-2022 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 Budget Dates	
October 26, 2020	Instructions issued to agencies on preparing and submitting their proposed budget amendments
November 6, 2020	Agencies submitted their proposed budget amendments to the Department of Planning and Budget
December 16, 2020	Governor submits recommended budget to the General Assembly
January 13, 2021	General Assembly convenes
February 7, 2021	Budget bill crossover occurs*
February 27, 2021	General Assembly adjourns*
April 7, 2021	Reconvened General Assembly session occurs*

*indicates tentative dates