

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. Amendments to this two-year budget were considered by the General Assembly during its 2021 session.

Governor Northam will present the 2022-2024 biennial budget and amendments to the FY 2021 budget (referred to as the Caboose) in the following pages. The General Assembly will adopt the budget during the 2022 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	
September 10, 2021	Instructions issued to agencies on preparing and submitting their proposed budget amendments
October 1, 2021	Agencies submitted their proposed budget amendments to the Department of Planning and Budget
December 16, 2021	Governor submits recommended budget to the General Assembly
January 12, 2022	General Assembly convenes
February 15, 2022	Budget bill crossover occurs*
March 12, 2022	General Assembly adjourns*
April 20, 2022	Reconvened General Assembly session occurs*

*indicates tentative dates