

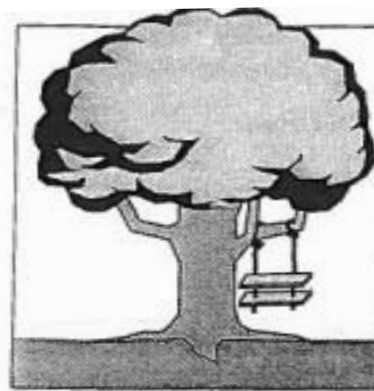


Bipartisan Policy Center

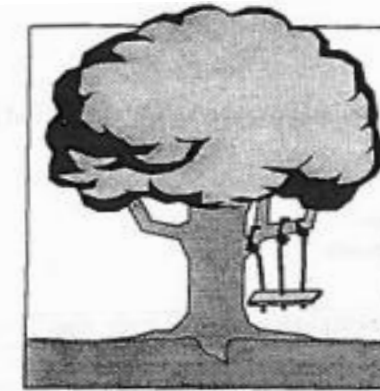
- Appropriations 101 – Staffer Perspective for Understanding — the Process

January 26, 2023

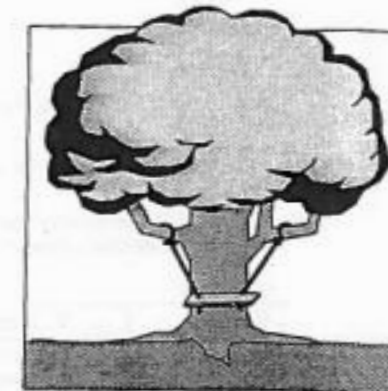
How to navigate through a complex process



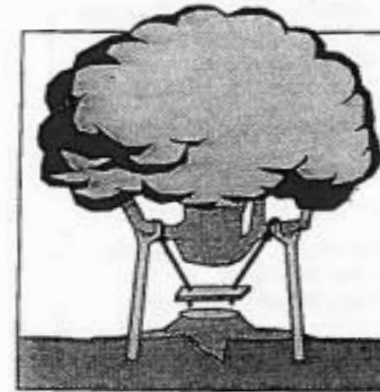
As Introduced



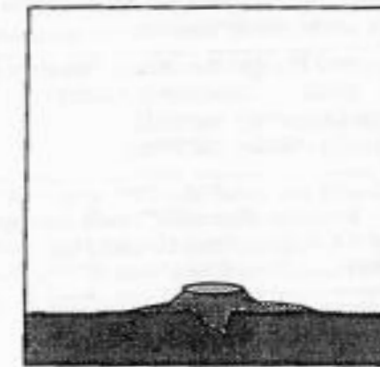
As Amended In
Committee



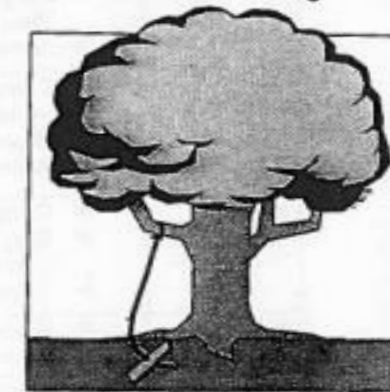
As Amended On
Second Reading



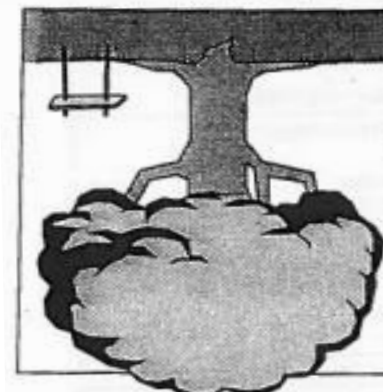
As Enacted



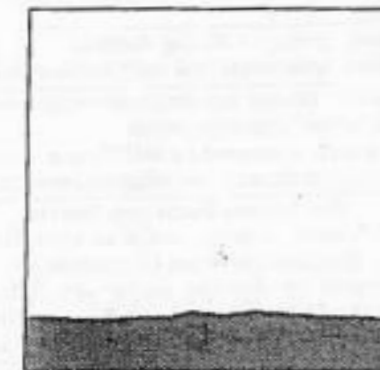
As Funded By Joint
Budget Committee



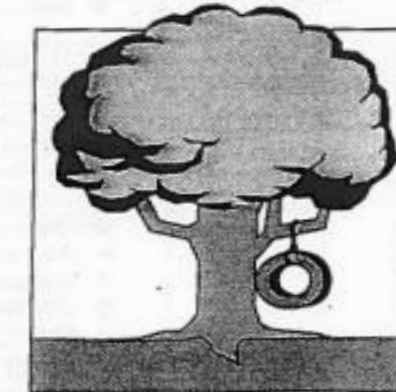
As Implemented By
The State Agency



As Reported By
The Media

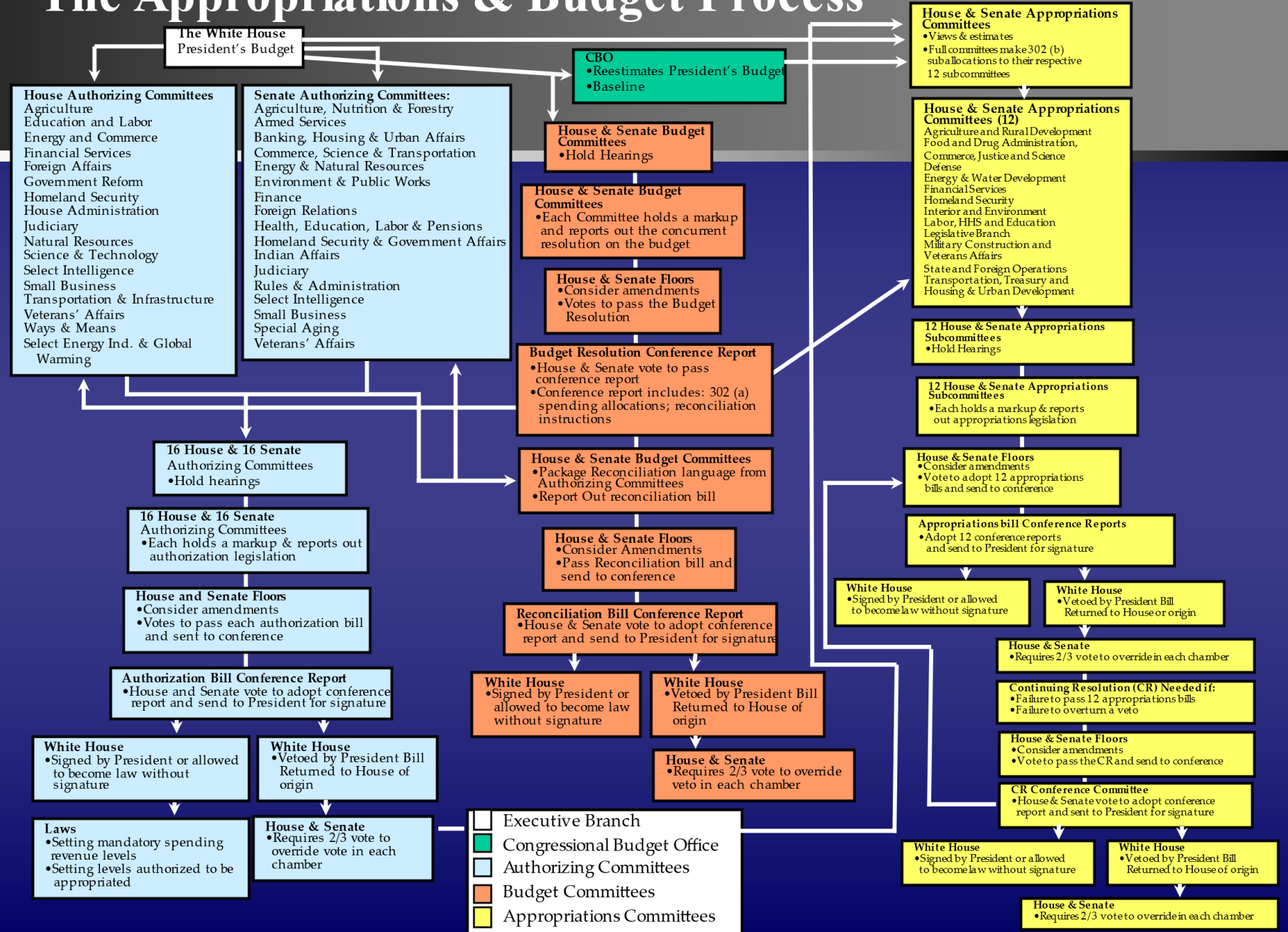


As Understood By
The Public



What Was Actually
Needed

The Appropriations & Budget Process



The Federal Budget Framework – 1974 Budget and Impoundment Control Act

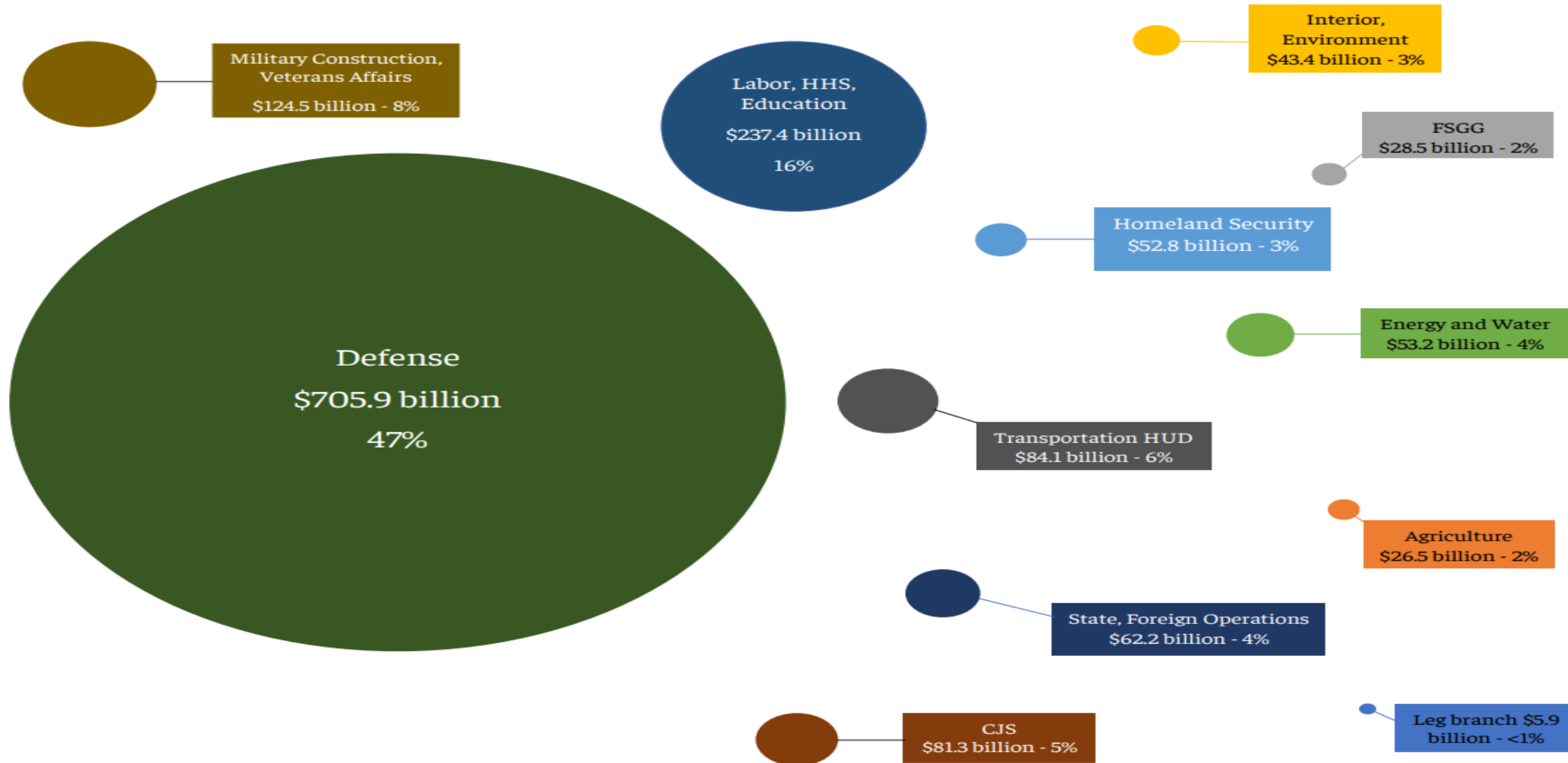
White House
•Signed by President or allowed to become law without signature

Laws
•Setting mandatory spending revenue levels
•Setting levels authorized to be appropriated

White House
•Vetoed by President Bill Returned to House of origin

House & Senate
•Requires 2/3 vote to override vote in each chamber

Discretionary Spending – 302(a) & 302(b) Allocations (FY22 funding \$1.5 trillion)



Federal Budget and Appropriations Process



JANUARY

- ❖ Office of Management and Budget (OMB) finalizes the new budget request.
- ❖ President speaks to Congress signaling his priorities in the State of the Union.

MARCH

- Appropriations and authorizing committee hearings begin on the budget request.
- Budget Committees draft annual resolution.
- Possible House and Senate floor action taken on their versions of the Congressional Budget Resolution
- Members send priority requests to appropriators on Appropriations subcommittees

FEBRUARY

- ❖ The President's budget request is sent to Congress for its consideration.
- Budget Committees start hearings on a Congressional Budget Resolution

APRIL

- Congressional Budget Resolution debate continues.
- April 15th – Statutory deadline for completion of Congressional Budget Resolution (frequently missed)



MAY

- Congressional Budget Resolution debate concludes.
- May 15 – Statutory date after which appropriators may begin to consider bills even if a Congressional Budget Resolution is not finalized.
- House/Senate Appropriations issue 302(b) allocations to their respective subcommittees.

JULY

- Senate Appropriations subcommittees/full committee markups are underway.
- Senate floor consideration of appropriations bills begin.
- ❖ Federal agencies begin to formulate the next fiscal year's budget proposal.

JUNE

- House Appropriations subcommittee/full committee markups are underway.
- House floor debate on appropriations bills begin.

AUGUST

- House/Senate stand in recess during August (dates vary).
- House/Senate appropriations staff begin conference negotiations.



SEPTEMBER

- Appropriations House/Senate conference negotiations begin.
- House and Senate conferees meet to finalize bills.
- Conference bills are approved by the full House and then the full Senate.
- ❖ President signs bills into law after conference bills are approved by Congress.

NOVEMBER

- ❖ OMB and federal agencies negotiate the next fiscal year's budget request with rounds of feedback and input.

OCTOBER

- October 1st – New federal fiscal year begins.
- Continuing resolutions begin remaining bills.
- Any appropriations negotiations not resolved in September continue.
- ❖ Federal agencies send proposals for next fiscal year's budget to OMB.

DECEMBER

- ❖ OMB and federal agencies resolve differences on next fiscal year's budget request





Opportunities to Engage in the Appropriations Process



Ways to be Actively Engaged in the Appropriations Process

Submit appropriations requests or submit congressional support letters.

- Timeframe – typically February and March after the budget request is released to Congress
- Requests include three primary ways related to a policy or programs:
 - Funding request levels
 - Report language requests
 - Bill language requests

Engage in the appropriations or authorizing committee oversight process

- Timeframe – typically March - July
- Hearing process by:
 - Asking questions at budget and appropriations hearings
 - Providing questions for the record



Ways to be Actively Engaged in the Appropriations Process

Engage on the Senate and House floor debates

- Timeframe – typically June, July, September rest of year?
- If an appropriations bill or minibus package of bills is on the floor, this may be a chance to offer amendments.

Indicate member priorities to federal agencies

- Timeframe – throughout the entire year, but often later in the year
- In terms of the federal agency budget development process, it is best to be in contact with the federal agencies early fall as they are formulating their future budget requests to Congress for the next fiscal cycle.



Key Elements for Engagement

- Office - Have a good internal organizational system set up
- Fly-in season –Meet with constituents in Washington or the district
- Deadlines and requirements (sorting requests, selecting priorities, getting member approval, making submissions)
- Programmatic and individual member requests – Be aware of both options
- Subcommittee engagement - Highlight requests and provide insight on member priorities
- Constituent updates– Stay in touch in a timely manner on where things stand
- Highlight wins – Focus on the provisions enacted that were member priorities



Key Documents and Links

- Administration Budget Request – White House / Office of Management and Budget (plus background documents)
- Congressional Justifications (CJs) – Specific request from each agency – [DOE example](#)
- Budget Committee resolution – 302(a) and Appropriations Committee - 302(b)
- House and Senate offices have online portals for submitting information
- Appropriations Subcommittee ‘marks’ – summary, bill and report
- Appropriations Full Committee ‘mark’ – summary, bill and report
- Conference report – in the form of an individual bill, a minibus, or an omnibus – [FY21 omnibus example](#) along with the summary and joint explanatory statement (report)



Franz Wuerfmannsdobler, Senior Advisor
franzw@bipartisanpolicy.org



Bipartisan Policy Center

1225 Eye Street NW, Suite
1000 Washington, D.C. 20005

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