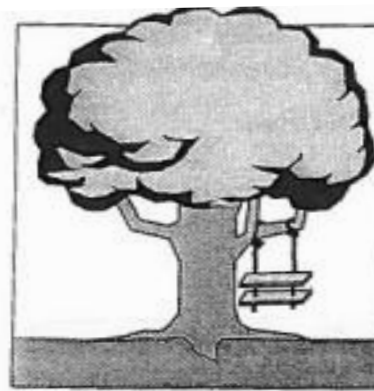




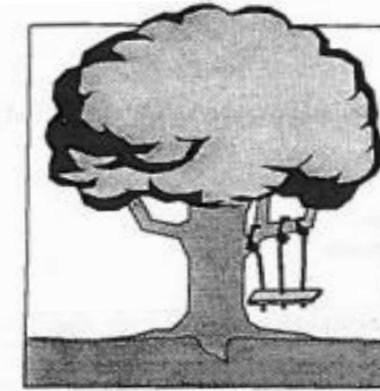
# **Appropriations 101 – Staffer Perspective for Understanding the Process**

February 29, 2024

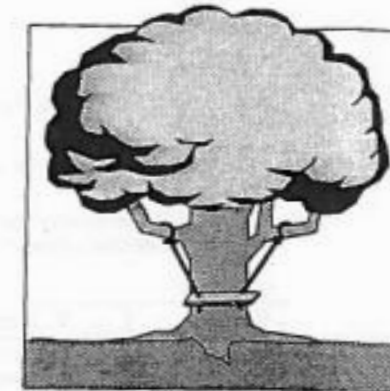
# How to navigate through a complex process



As Introduced



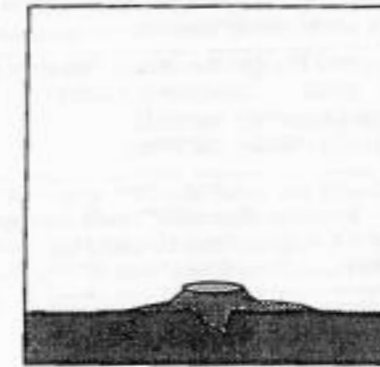
As Amended In  
Committee



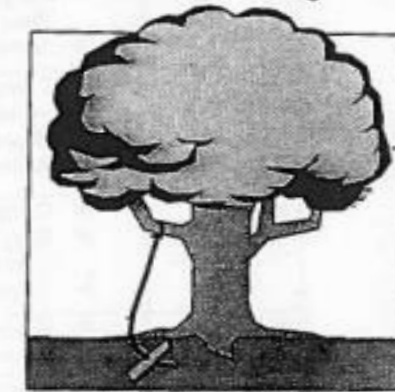
As Amended On  
Second Reading



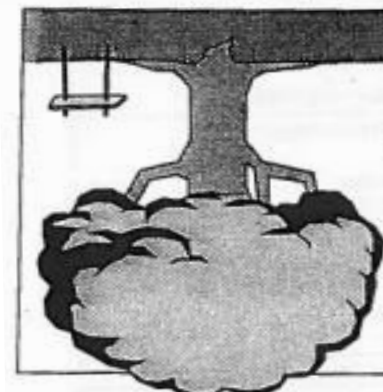
As Enacted



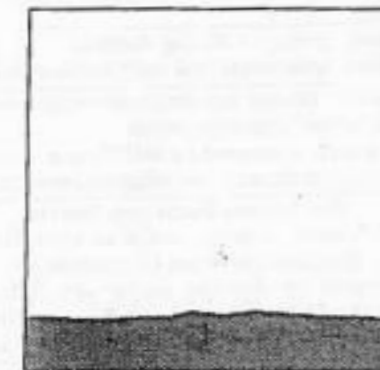
As Funded By Joint  
Budget Committee



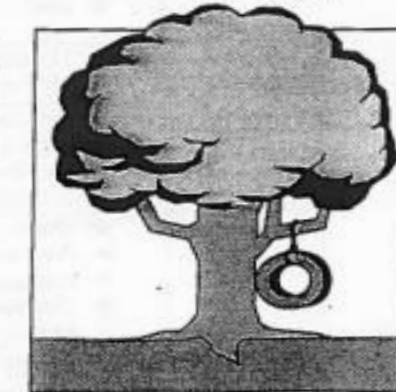
As Implemented By  
The State Agency



As Reported By  
The Media



As Understood By  
The Public



What Was Actually  
Needed



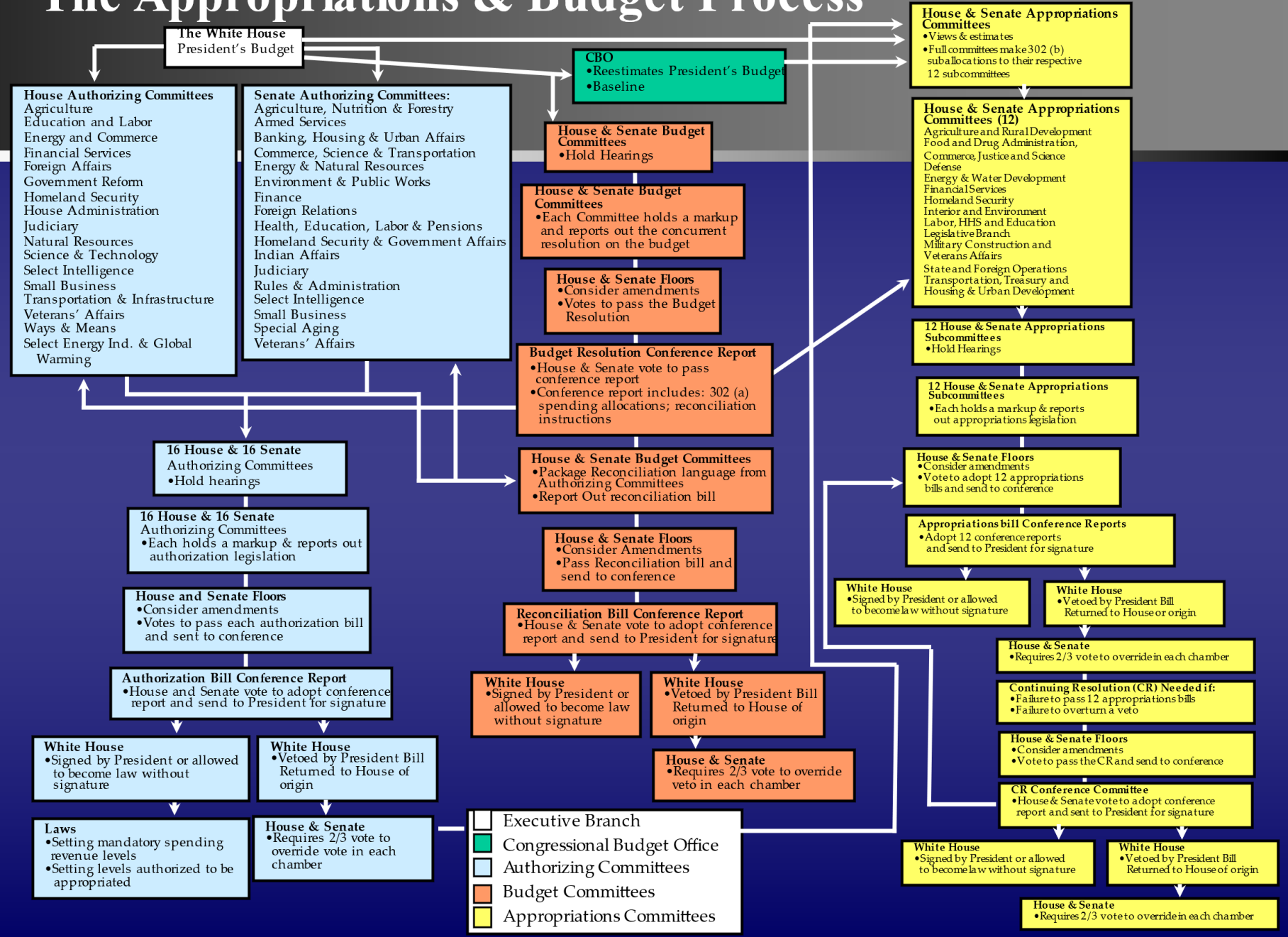
# A LOT has changed with Congress and the country since 1789

- ❖ 37 more states
- ❖ 332 million people (2020)
  - ❖ (3.9 million in 1790)
- ❖ 761,179 people per congressional district
  - ❖ (30,000 in 1789)
- ❖ 30,000+ statutes (estimate)
- ❖ 438 federal agencies (2022)
  - ❖ 3 federal agencies (1789)



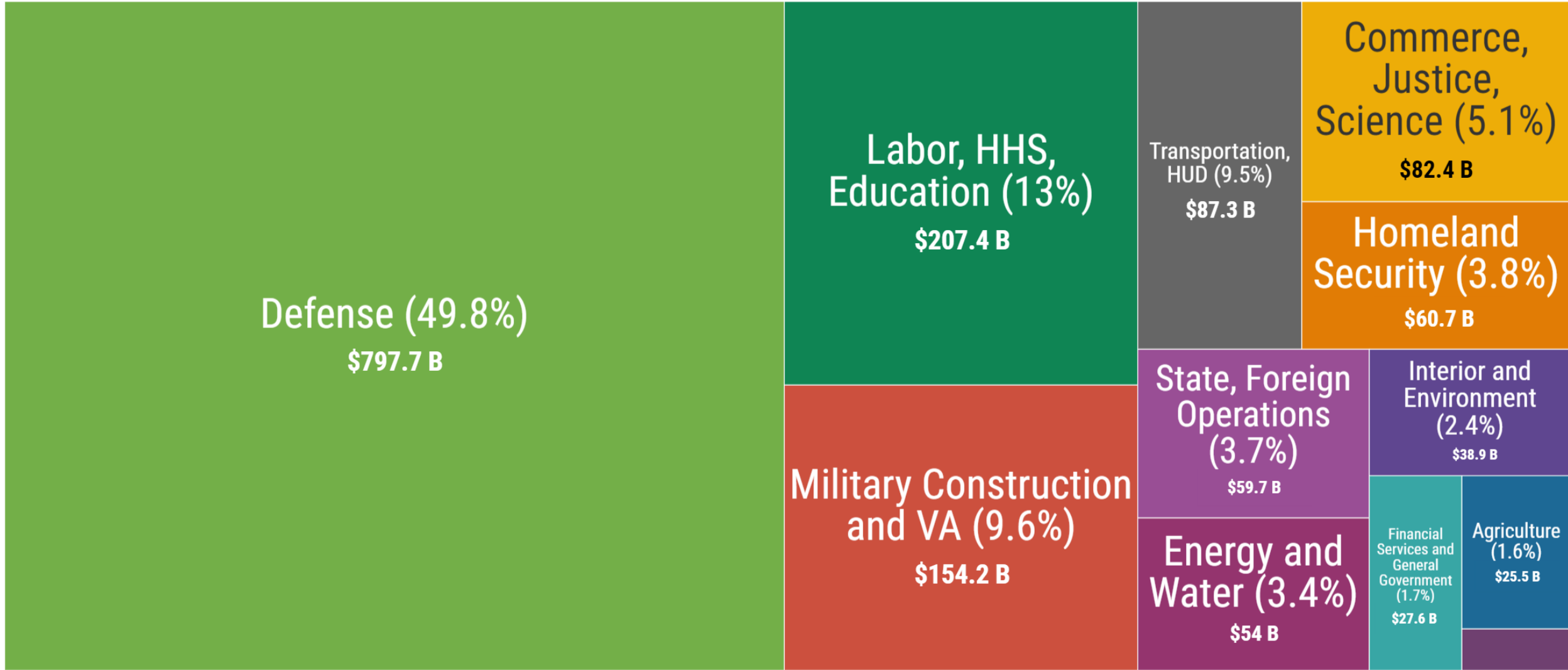
# The Federal Budget Framework – 1974 Budget and Impoundment Control Act

## The Appropriations & Budget Process



# Discretionary Spending - 302(a) and 302(b) Allocations

(FY23 Funding \$1.602 Trillion)



Legislative Branch (0.4%) \$6.9 B



# 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

- ❖ 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 15<sup>th</sup> – 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 (programmatic and member requests)
  - 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 authorizing, budget and appropriations hearings
  - Submitting 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.



# Member Requests / Earmarks – An Overview

- Reformed process was reestablished in FY2021 after being prohibited for a decade
- House and Senate reforms (examples)
  - 1% of discretionary funding limit; for-profit entities banned; members must post requests
- Differences between House and Senate (examples)
  - Cap for House members (up to 15 requests) and no caps for Senators to make requests
  - Subcommittees & accounts – Senate 9 subcoms/60 accounts // House 7 subcoms/36 accounts
- Increased transparency - GAO has been analyzing enacted requests – Tracking the Funds
- Participation (bipartisan & bicameral) – FY24 – 80.5% overall (83.7% of House & 66% of Senate)



# Key Documents and Information

- **Administration Budget Request – White House / Office of Management and Budget**
- **Congressional Justifications (CJs) – Specific request outlined by each department and agency**
- **House and Senate offices have online portals for requests to Approps Committee**
- **Budget Committee resolution – 302(a) and Appropriations Committee - 302(b)**
- **Appropriations Subcommittee ‘marks’ – summary, bill and report**
- **Appropriations Full Committee ‘marks’ – summary, bill and report**
- **Continuing Resolutions**
- **Conference report – in the form of an individual bill, a minibus, or an omnibus**



# Key Elements for Engagement

- **Office - Have a good internal organizational system set up (DC and district)**
- **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 & 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**

