Legislative Budget Process

February
President announces current fiscal year budget and sends it to Congress.

March – April 15
Congress completes the fiscal year budget resolution.

Spring
OMB issues guidance to executive agencies for planning the next fiscal year budget (FY2009).

May 15 – June 30
House completes its 10 fiscal year appropriations bills and sends them to the Senate.

July 1 – September 30
Senate completes its 12 fiscal year appropriations bills.

July
OMB provides agencies with detailed instructions for fiscal year (FY2009) budget requests.

August – September 30
Conference committees reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the appropriations bills. After final approval by both chambers, the President vetoes or signs them into law.

Spring/Summer
Agencies begin developing new fiscal year (FY 2009) budget requests based on OMB guidance.

September
Agencies submit initial new fiscal year requests to OMB.

October
New fiscal year begins. If appropriations bills remain unfinished, then Congress must pass a continuing resolution.

October – December
OMB evaluates and determines fiscal year (FY 2009) agency budgets. OMB "pass back" informs the agencies of these budgetary decisions.

October
Agencies have the opportunity to appeal the President’s new fiscal year (FY 2009) budget before it is publicly announced in February.