

Federal Appropriations Process

Proposed Timeframe

February

The traditional time line for the annual appropriations cycle begins in early February when the President sends the budget request to Congress and wraps once the President signs each of the 12 appropriations bills into law by the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. However, this process rarely finishes on schedule.

If the appropriations bills aren't finalized by the end of the fiscal year, Congress will need to pass one or more continuing resolution bills (CR) to extend government funding for several weeks or months to avoid a government shutdown until lawmakers can reach an agreement on final funding levels.

September

