

Budget Timeline

The timeline for creating the annual city budget varies from year to year, but the process generally begins in the spring. As part of the process, council will discuss the proposed budget at a special council meeting to hear from community members. Typically, the final budget is approved by the end of the calendar year.

Here is an overview of what the budget process looks like:

MAY - JUNE



DEVELOP BUDGET OUTLOOK: Prepared by city staff and provides key information about the current and forecasted financial landscape that informs the budget process. This includes looking into new revenue sources (such as increasing parking fees) or reallocating funds (through reducing or cancelling existing programs) in order to help balance the budget.

JUNE



COUNCIL REVIEWS BUDGET OUTLOOK: The council considers the budget outlook and uses it to begin building the upcoming budget.

AUG - OCT



DEVELOP SERVICE PLANS: City departments create detailed accounts of what services they provide, and how city funds will be spent delivering those services.

AUG - SEPT



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: Community members are given an opportunity to provide input on the budget through online surveys and by phone.

SEPT - DEC



DRAFT BUDGET: City staff and council write and revise several before the final budget is published. City council have a special open council meeting (usually in December) to hear public input on the budget.

NOV - DEC



APPROVE FINAL BUDGET: The complete budget is approved and published, to take effect in the new year.

What happens if the budget isn't approved?



“Legally the City of Vancouver must approve a budget before May 15 of the following year. So if city council fails to approve the budget during the usual timeline, say due to public pressure, they still have four and a half months to revise the budget before it legally must be submitted.”



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The work of WTC in Vancouver takes place on the stolen ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). We acknowledge the leadership of Indigenous women for time immemorial, and seek to learn and unlearn our own colonial practices as we work in cities as sites of resistance.