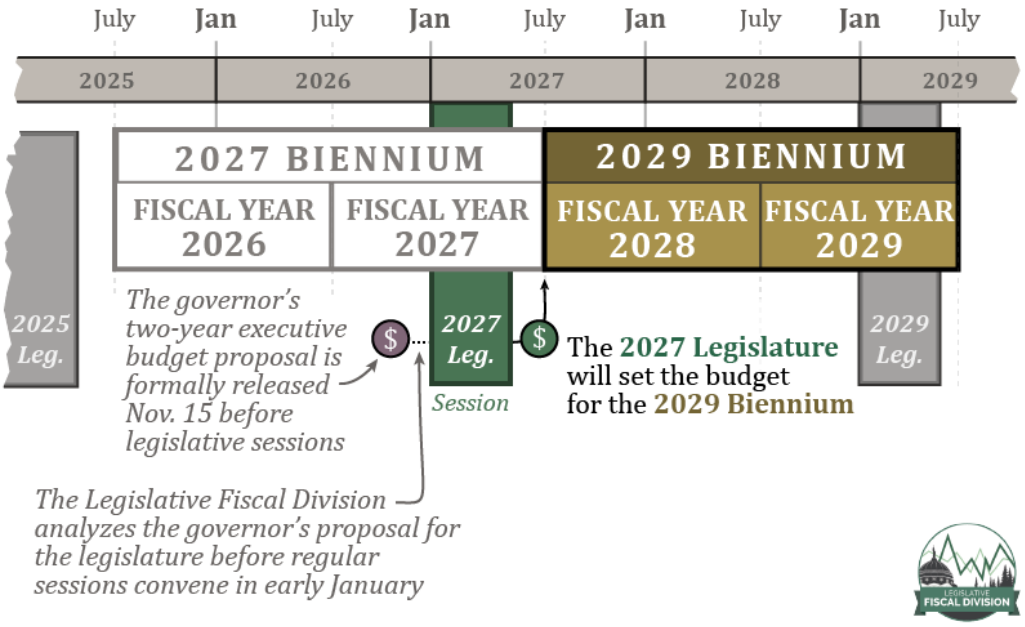
Montana's State Budget Calendar

The legislature sets a biennial budget that starts the July 1 following a regular legislative session



Montana's state budget operates on a two-year biennium, with each fiscal year running from July 1 through June 30. Each biennium begins on July 1 of odd-numbered years, following the conclusion of regular legislative sessions.

Budgets for each biennium begin as a proposal from the governor, who is required by law to submit a preliminary budget proposal by November 15 in the even-numbered years prior to the start of regular legislative sessions (amendments to the preliminary proposal can be made through December 15). The Governor's preliminary budget proposal is then considered by the legislature during the session, revised through amendments, and passed as the legislative budget via House Bill 2 and other appropriations bills. Once appropriation bills are passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, state agencies execute the budget over the course of the biennium.

For example, the 2025 Legislature set the budget for the 2027 biennium, which includes FY 2026 and FY 2027 and runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. The 2027 Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 4, 2027 and will consider the proposed executive budget for FY 2028 and FY 2029.

The federal government uses a different budget calendar, with fiscal years that run from October 1 to September 30. Local governments in Montana use the same July-to-June budget calendar as the state.

More information about the budgeting process is available on the Legislative Fiscal Division website, including the pre-session 2027 Biennium Budget Analysis of the Governor's proposed budget and the 2029 Biennium Outlook report.