

**Legislative Process – Biennial Budget
(Events in Usual Order of Occurrence)**

(1) Bill Introduced by and Referred the Joint Committee on Finance

Immediately after delivery of the Governor's budget message, the executive budget bill must be introduced, without change, into one of the two houses of the Legislature by the Joint Committee on Finance. Upon introduction the bill must be referred to the Joint Finance Committee for review.

March 1 -- Governor delivers budget message

March 1 – Executive budget bill introduced (without change) as 2011 Senate Bill 27/
Assembly Bill 40.

March 1 – Bill is read first time and referred to the Joint Committee on Finance and the Joint
Committee on Tax Exemptions

- Link to 2011 Assembly Bill 40: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/AB40.pdf>

(2) Legislative Fiscal Bureau Completion of Budget Summary

March 28 – Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) budget summary posted on-line

- Link to LFB summary:
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/2011-13%20Budget/Governor/tableofcontents.htm>

(3) Joint Finance Committee Briefings

After the Legislative Fiscal Bureau completes its summary of the budget, over briefings are held. No public testimony is taken at these briefings, although agency officials are expected to appear.

March 29 – Joint Finance Committee agency briefings begin.

March 31 – University of Wisconsin System briefing/appearances by UW System President Kevin
Reilly and UW-Madison Chancellor Biddy Martin

- Link to President Reilly's written statement:
http://wispolitics.com/1006/110331Reilly_testimony.pdf
- Link to material prepared for the briefing (including additional detail about Wisconsin Idea
Partnership): <http://www.wisconsin.edu/wip/details.htm>
- Link to Senator Luther Olsen (R) statement regarding separate consideration of proposal to
create an authority: http://wispolitics.com/1006/3_29_11_UW_Madison_split_2_.pdf

(4) Public Hearings

Upon conclusion of the Committee briefings, public hearings are held in locations to be determined by the Committee co-chairs. These hearings are open to the public to provide testimony.

March 25 – Joint Finance Committee schedules public hearings

April 7 – Public hearing in Stevens Point

April 8 – Public hearing in Superior

April 11 – Public hearing in West Allis

April 13 – Public hearing in Arcadia

➤ Link to letter regarding public hearings:

http://wispolitics.com/1006/110325_JFC_hearings_letter.pdf

(5) Joint Finance Committee Procedures Issued by Co-Chairs

Customarily, the Committee co-chairs issue a memo to the Committee members regarding the procedures to be followed. It is at this juncture that non-fiscal items—to be drafted as separate bills—are identified and pulled from budget deliberations.

(6) Joint Finance Committee Executive Sessions

Decisions regarding budget items are made in executive session. These decisions are reflected in the adoption of motions. These motions are usually made from budget papers (which have yet to be prepared) or the summary (already prepared) by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. However, Committee members may also prepare motions on budget related items that are not reflected in the budget papers or in the budget summary.

Executive sessions are open to the public but no testimony is taken. All discussions occur between the Committee and staff of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and the Department of Administration.

(7) Joint Finance Committee Recommended Budget

The Joint Finance Committee adopts its recommendations, typically as a substitute amendment to the original bill and not a “new” bill.

(8) Joint Finance Committee Reported to the Senate/Assembly

The Joint Finance Committee substitute amendment is reported to the Senate/Assembly.

(9) Consideration of the Substitute Amendment by the Senate/Assembly

(10) Adoption of the Substitute Amendment by the Senate/Assembly

Adoption may occur with or without amendments to the Joint Finance Committee substitute amendment.

(11) Conference Committee

(12) Consideration by the Assembly/Consideration by Senate of Conference Committee Amendment

(13) Passage of Bill with Conference Committee Amendment

(14) Enrolled Bill Presented to Governor

(15) Governor Approves Bill with Partial Vetoes

In addition to having the power to veto bills in their entirety, Wisconsin governors can veto appropriation bills in part. However, the governor cannot create a new word by rejecting individual letters in the words of the enrolled bill, and cannot create a new sentence by combining parts of two or more sentences of the enrolled bill.

The Legislature can override partial vetoes.

(16) Act Published

(17) Act Becomes Effective