

# Fact Sheet BUDGET PROCESS

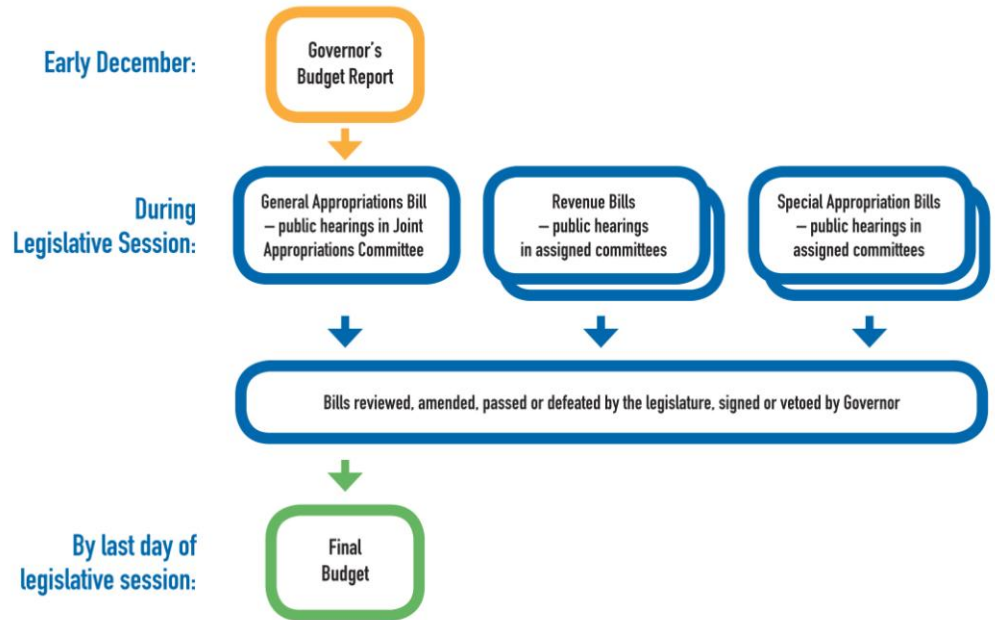
## South Dakotans Talking



### What are unique challenges in our process?

South Dakota has a part-time citizen Legislature and a short legislative session. The Joint Appropriations Committee must reconcile the governor's budget with the revenue and/or special appropriations bills passed during the session. Final budget amendments are often not introduced until the last days of session, leaving citizens and legislators alike little time to research, discuss and provide feedback on proposed changes.

### How is South Dakota's budget crafted?



### What type of fiscal information is routinely available to support budget decision-making?

- The Governor's Budget Address includes analysis explaining the proposed budget.
- The Legislative Research Council (LRC) provides a briefing of each agency's budget request.
- Legislators can ask that fiscal notes be attached to individual pieces of legislation.
- The LRC and Bureau of Finance both provide separate revenue estimates for the upcoming year.

### How do citizens get involved in the budget process? (See page 25 of SD Budget Primer for details.)

The first step is to become informed. Then, to really influence fiscal policy, you must take action:

- Help others understand that open discussion of fiscal options by elected leaders is necessary and responsible.
- Ensure that independent research is available to clarify a variety of fiscal policy options.
- Join with other citizens to build consensus around budget policy options.
- Talk to your elected officials.

### How does the budget process impact the common good?

Broad-based and thoughtful citizen involvement helps ensure that South Dakota's budget priorities reflect citizen values and meet the needs of our state.

*Are there other aspects of the budget process that you value or would change?*