

BUDGETING IN FLORIDA: STATE VS. CITIES



STATE BUDGET (Florida Legislature)



CITY BUDGETS (Local Government)

Often finalized in private negotiations among legislative leadership	Developed in public view , with multiple points for public input.
Compressed timeline during 60-day session .	Created over several months , often starting in the spring.
No required public hearings on the state budget.	Two public hearings required by law under Florida's Truth in Millage (TRIM process).
Conference meetings may be announced with little notice .	Budget workshops and hearings are scheduled in advance and publicly noticed .
Budget often includes discretionary last-minute appropriations with limited public review ("sprinkle lists") with limited debate.	Budget is fully itemized and publicly available before adoption.
Little to no opportunity for residents to weigh in on spending .	Residents are invited to speak at hearings, review proposals, and give feedback .
Decisions often influenced by political negotiations .	Decisions made by local officials who are directly accountable to the community.
Final budget passed by majority vote of state lawmakers.	Final budget adopted by city commission or council in a public meeting, following a statutory process specifically designed to maximize transparency and encourage public participation .