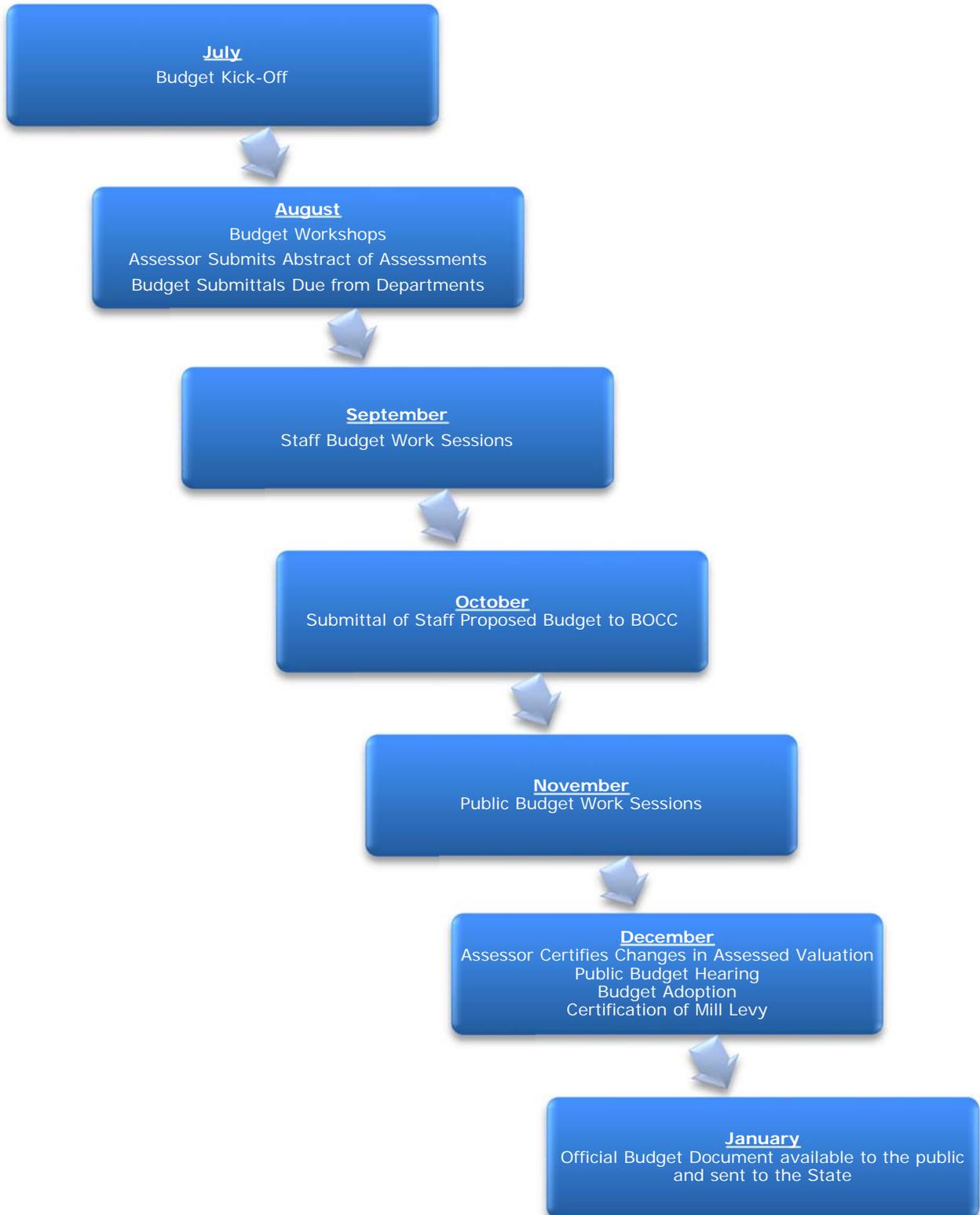


Budget Process/Citizen Input





Budget Process and Policies

GREEN TEXT DENOTES CITIZEN INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

It is important to ensure that the Board of County Commissioners is getting the public's perspective rather than only that of a small number of highly vocal special interest groups. To this end, the County collects results from a biannual National Citizen Survey™ administered by the National Research Center. The results of this survey are used to inform the Board of County Commissioners to adjust services and service levels more closely to citizens' preferences.

Each July, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the County Manager and the Finance Department meet at the budget kick-off to discuss the budget process and key budget priorities. Budget Preparation Manuals are distributed to department directors for use in preparing their budget submittals.

Throughout July and August, the Finance Department conducts several workshops with departments to assist with calculating current year projections; setting user fees; allocating staff costs among activities, projects and grants; and generally completing the various required forms for the budget submittal.

No later than August 25 of each year, the County Assessor sends a certified assessed valuation of all taxable property within the County to the Finance Director. Based on this assessed valuation and statutory and TABOR property tax revenue limits, the Finance Director computes a rate of levy which when levied would raise the amounts, along with other revenues, necessary to fund the County operating requirements.

On August 15, each department submits their budget along with any required special requests for staff, capital expenditures, baseline enhancements and transfers, and computer equipment or software.

In September, each department director meets with the County Manager and Finance staff to prepare and review the Staff Proposed Budget.

No later than October 15 of each year, the Finance Director presents a Staff Proposed Budget to the BOCC.

Upon receipt of the proposed budget, notice is published within ten days, containing:

1. The date and time of a public hearing at which the adoption of the proposed budget will be considered,
2. The location where the proposed budget may be inspected, and
3. A statement that any interested elector may file objections to the proposed budget at any time prior to the final adoption.

During November, the BOCC meets to consider input from the public and revises the Staff Proposed Budget with changes they deem necessary. Numerous public work sessions are held to review various aspects of the proposed budget.

In the first week of December, a final Public Hearing for the budget is scheduled to consider citizen input.



Budget Process and Policies

No later than December 10 of each year, the Assessor certifies any changes in the assessed valuation to local jurisdictions and the Colorado Division of Property Taxation.

Final budget adoption is scheduled prior to or on December 15 of each year.

The Board of County Commissioners levy taxes and certify the levies to the County Assessor no later than December 22 of each year.

The Official Gunnison County Budget Document is submitted to the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs by January 31.

Budget Amendments

Throughout the year, the budget may be amended from time to time based unforeseen circumstances. Any department may submit a request to amend their budget due to an increase/decrease in revenues (i.e., receipt of a new grant, change in State or Federal funding, etc.); a request for use of contingency funds; or the transfer of funds between appropriation units (i.e., personnel, operating or capital expenditures) or between other organizations and funds. A department is required to submit a budget amendment request form which states why the revision is needed along with the appropriate revenue and/or expenditure account information.

These requests are then reviewed by the Finance Program and submitted for potential approval as a proposed amendment by the County Manager.

Proposed Amendments that are approved by staff are then forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for formal adoption of a resolution amending the Gunnison County budget and amending the appropriation resolution.