

Seattle City Budget Process: Overview

SBT Community Advisory Board

Seattle City Budget Office
April 23, 2026

Agenda

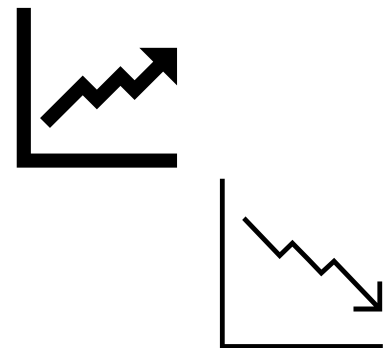
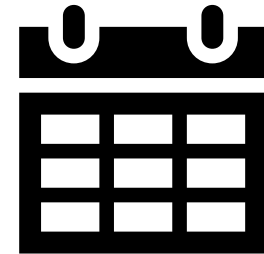
Budget Overview

Budget Process

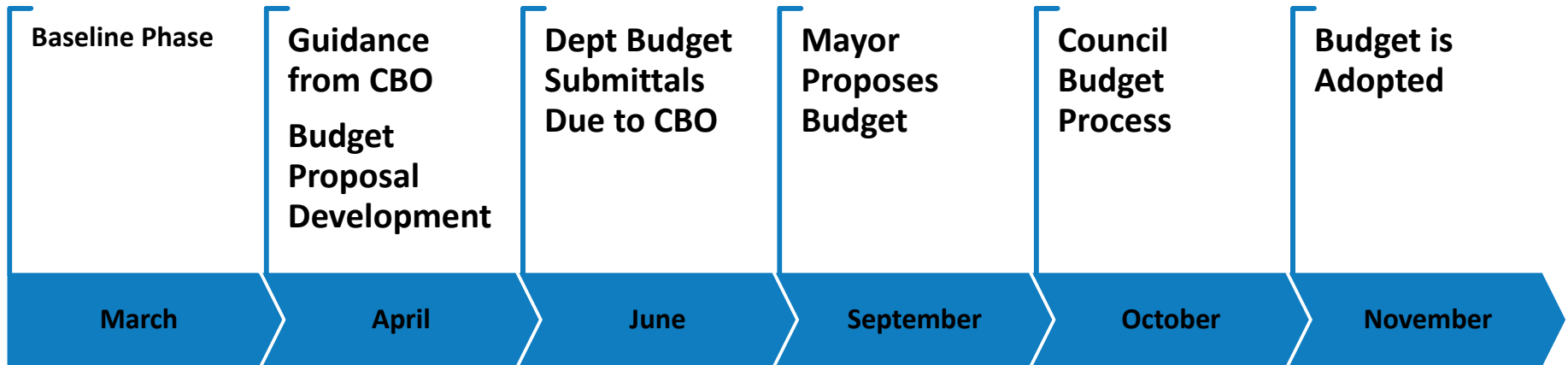


City Budget Basics

- Mayor proposes an annual budget, Council amends and passes
- Budget governs appropriation levels for all City spending
- Available City resources are based on economic forecasts
 - Projected City revenue dictates the amount that can be budgeted
 - City is legally required to balance budget.



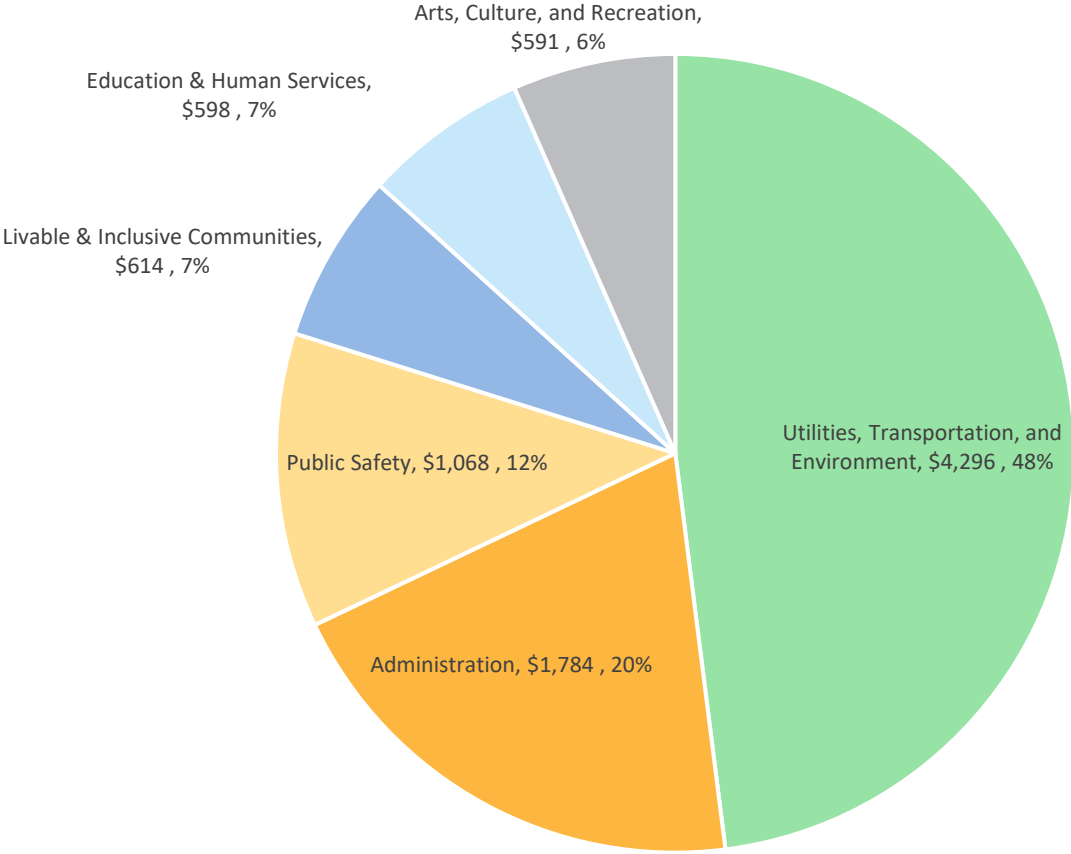
Typical Budget Process Timeline



- The Proposed Budget is developed by the City Budget Office and the Mayor's Office between June and September, based on economic and revenue forecasts, department-proposed changes, and mayoral priorities.

Expenditures

2026 Adopted Budget: \$9.0 Billion Total Funds by Program Area (Amounts in \$1000s)



Revenues and Forecast

- Major revenue sources for the General Fund include Property Tax, Sales and Use Tax, and taxes on the Utilities.
- April Revenue Update (2025 Actuals and Forecast)
 - [Seattle Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasting](#)
 - Link to [April 10 Economic and Revenue Update](#)

April 2026 Revenue Forecast and Update(\$ Millions)			
	2025 Actuals	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast
General Fund Revenues	\$1,635.2	\$1,783.8	\$1,857.7
<i>Change from Oct 2025</i>		<i>-\$10.2</i>	<i>+\$12.6</i>
Sweetened Beverage Tax	\$21.6	\$22.8	21.4
<i>Change from Oct 2025</i>		<i>+\$0.4</i>	<i>+\$0.0</i>

SBT Fund – Current Snapshot

- SBT Fund currently balanced for 2027
- Out of balance for 2028
- City will have to present a balanced budget through 2030 in the Proposed Budget

\$s in 1000s	2026	2026	2027	2028	2029
	Adopted	Revised	Projected	Projected	Projected
Beginning Balance	1,525	8,588	1,792	1,304	(782)
Revenue	22,338	22,754	21,379	21,239	21,545
Expenditures	22,201	28,550	22,867	23,324	23,791
DEEL	0	4,108	--	--	--
DON	2,785	4,875	2,868	2,926	2,984
HSD	12,633	12,633	13,012	13,272	13,537
OSE	6,427	6,577	6,620	6,752	6,888
SPR	356	356	367	374	382
Ending Balance	1,662	2,792	1,304	(782)	(3,028)
Reserve	1,000	1,000	1,000	--	--
Ending - Unreserved	662	1,792	304	(782)	(3,028)

Note: 2026 "Revised Budget" includes carryforwards of contracted (encumbered) or unspent 2025 appropriations.

Questions?

