

# The Congressional Budget Cycle:

Authorizations and  
Appropriations

# Overview



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# Definitions

- **Budget Resolution & Reconciliation** – Budget committee sets revenue, spending, and other budgetary targets; may include reconciliation instructions to one or more committees.
- **Authorization** - legislation which approves a project or program to be funded. Also, establishes the authority for the various federal agencies and programs.
- **Appropriation** - legislation which allows for the allocation and expenditure of funds. Appropriates public funds.
- **Markup** - congressional committees make changes and amendments to a bill prior to recommending it. This process can take place at either the subcommittee level or the full committee level.
- **Conference** - meeting of House and Senate members (i.e. conferees) to resolve disagreeing issues of the two chambers.
- **Bill** - is a form of legislation which, when passed by both chambers and approved by the President becomes a law.



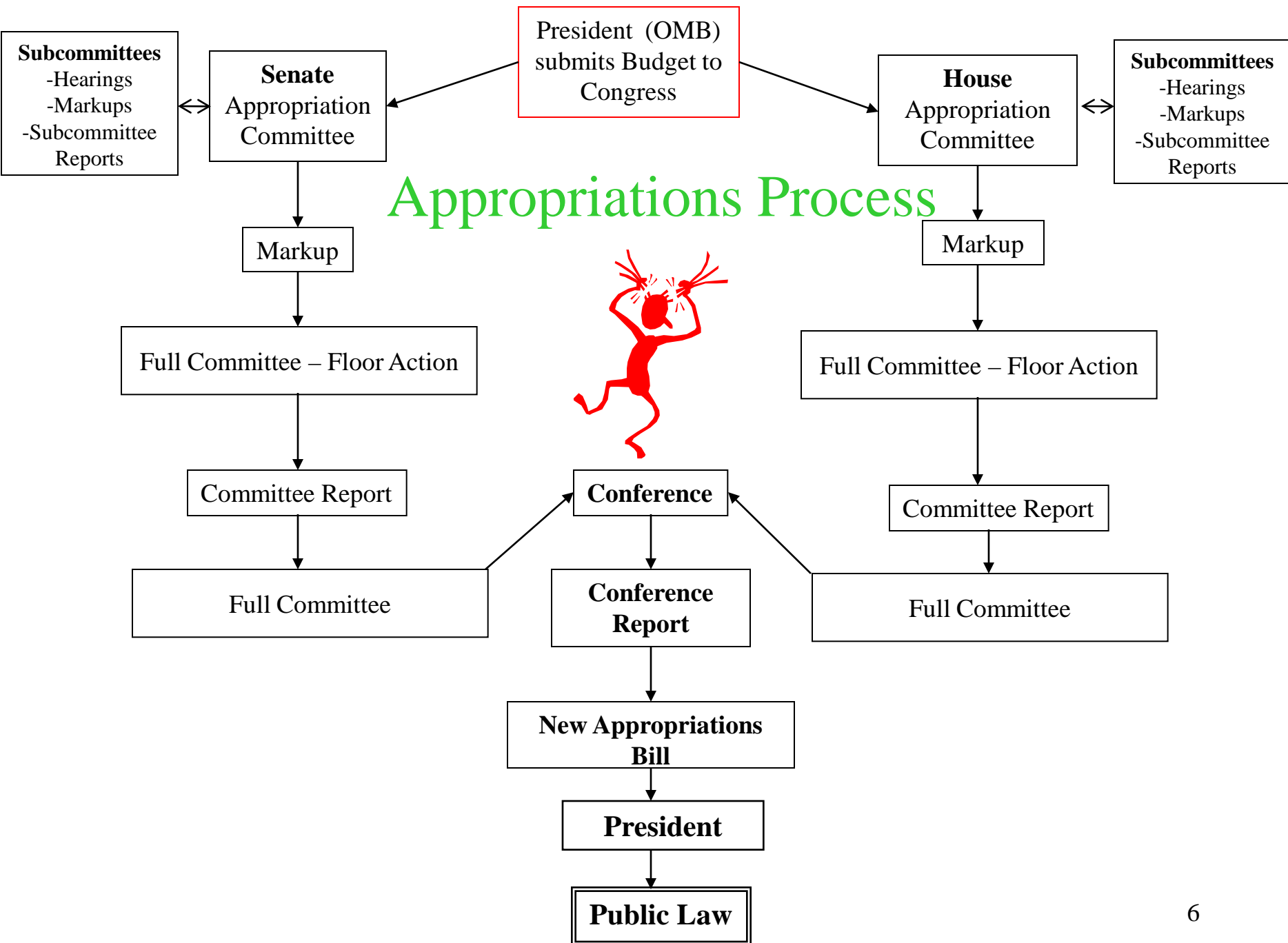
# The Congressional Budget Cycle- Authorization Process

- The President (OMB) submits the budget to House and Senate Budget Committees. (First Monday in February)
- Congressional Budget Office analyzes the President's budget and concurrently submits its report of the budget to the Budget Committees.
- Budget Committees report first concurrent resolution on the budget to their Houses.
- Committees complete action (hearings and markups) resolution, authorizing new budget authority (authorization bill).
- The budget resolution allocations serve as guidelines to the committees as they proceed with their individual spending bills.
- Spending levels are allocated to 20 functions among the spending committees. Each committee ends up with a target for the spending bills in its jurisdiction that is consistent with the budget resolution.

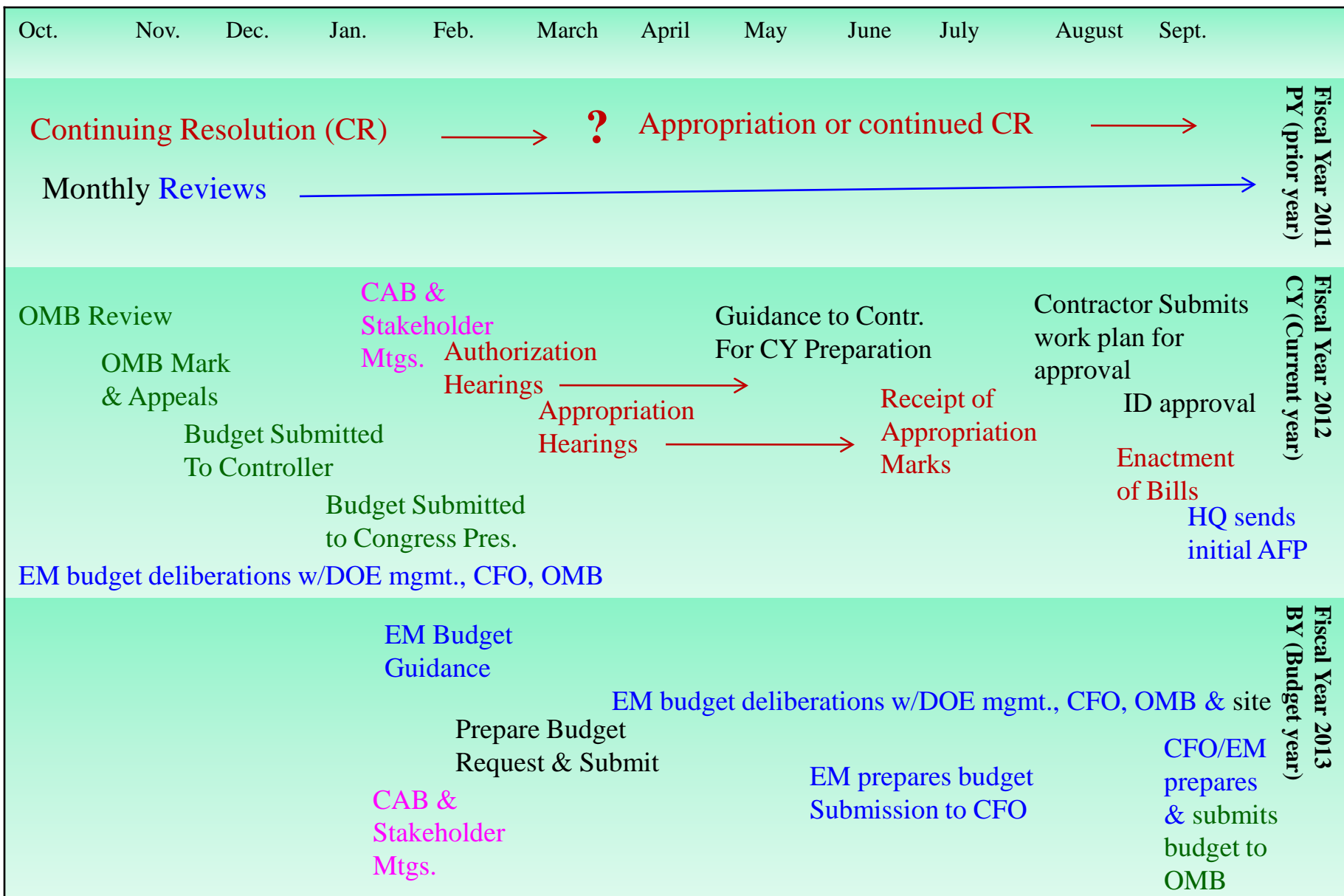
# The Congressional Budget Cycle - Appropriations Process

- Appropriations originate in legislation that is approved by the House or the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The full House and Senate Appropriations Committees work their funding priorities within the boundaries established by the Congressional Budget Resolution (authorization bill) which sets specific fiscal year funding limitations.
- The budget resolution allocations serve as guidelines to the committees as they proceed with their individual spending bills.
- There are Fourteen Appropriations. The key Appropriations for Idaho are:
  - Energy & Water Development
  - Defense
  - Interior and related agencies
  - Homeland Security

# Appropriations Process



# Budgeting Time Schedule For FY 13 in FY 11



# Budget Cycle Information-(Backup Slide)

## Normal Congressional Budget Schedule:

-Budget Guidance Issued	January
-HQ PSO, CFO and OMB Prepare Budget	January
-OMB sends Congressional Budget to Congress	February
-Hearings	Feb/June
-Budget Committees Complete Action	April
-Congress Passes Concurrent Resolution	April
-Authorization Committees Complete Action	May
-Congress Passed Authorization Bill	May
-Appropriation Committees Complete Action	June
-Congress Passes Appropriation Bill	June
-Bills (Acts) are sent to President	Aug/Sept

New fiscal year begins (if no appropriation bill by the end of the fiscal year, a Continuing Resolution is proposed by Congress).



# Legislative Process - How a Bill Becomes a Law – (Backup Slide)

- Two types of bills --Public (appropriation, authorization, etc.) --Private (for private citizens, etc.)
- Given a tracking number --If introduced in the House, will have H.R. XXXX designation, if in the Senate, will be designated with an S. XXXX
- Committee Action - a bill can be referred to a subcommittee or considered by the committee as a whole.
- If referred to a subcommittee and the subcommittee acts on the bill, public hearings are conducted.
- When hearings are completed the bill goes through a markup session by the subcommittee.
- A subcommittee report is usually generated from the proceedings.
- Bills reported out of subcommittee are then sent to the full committee for consideration.
  - More hearings may be held or the committee may proceed to mark up the bill.
- If the full committee approves the bill, it will be reported out and returned to the chamber of origination.
- The committee staff prepares a draft of the bill along with a written report.
- Bills reported out of committee can be brought to the House or Senate floor for discussion.
- Floor action consists of debates and negotiations.
- After the debate and approval of any amendments, the bill is passed or defeated by the members voting.
- When a bill is passed by one chamber it is then referred to the other, where it usually follows the same route through committee and floor actions.
- At this point the bill is referred to as an 'Act.'
- If issues need to be resolved between the two chambers, a conference is requested and scheduled.
- The Conferees can only consider matters that were in disagreement between the two versions of the bill.
- If agreement is reached, a conference report is prepared.
- If disagreed by both parties, there are several steps that need to take place to correct matters.
- Both the House and the Senate must approve the conference report.
- After the Act is approved by the House and the Senate (the Act must be in identical form), it is sent to the President.
- If the President approves the legislation, it becomes public law with the designation P.L. xxx.
- If the President opposes the Act he can veto it.
- The President cannot veto a portion of an Act.
- If the President takes no action within 10 days, while Congress is in session, the Act automatically becomes a law.
- Congress can override a veto provided they have two thirds of the votes of their members.

