



Congress should do a real budget with all spending and revenue

Ask: Support the Comprehensive Congressional Budget Act

- H.R. 7295 by Reps. Blake Moore & Jeff Hurd.
- Empower committees and members to review and manage all policies in the federal budget.
- Replace a dysfunctional, incomplete process with a private- and public-sector best practice.

Today's congressional budget process doesn't serve legislators or the public.

- The status quo promotes division, not unity.
- Appropriations are ~¼ of federal spending. Congress enacts them late in a tightly controlled process that excludes most members.
- Direct ("mandatory") spending is far larger and growing fast, but members lack a regular, coherent, anticipated opportunity to coordinate direct spending and revenue with appropriations.
- Major trust fund programs face depleting reserves.
- Excessive debt undermines prosperity, creates risks.
- The budget resolution is a messaging vehicle and reinforces divides.

Why do a comprehensive budget?

- A budget = ALL spending & revenue.
- Greater stake for members of many committees in a successful annual process.
- Strengthens democracy, helps members pursue budget priorities, healthy political cover for savings.
- Reduces polarization through greater openness and the need to build coalitions.
- Provides a viable vehicle to pursue budget goals such as balance or debt-to-GDP targets.
- Reveals tradeoffs, helps reduce overlap and fragmentation, supports coordination.
- Allows routine, incremental correction of imbalances with cover from other budget areas.
- Frees up floor time for authorizing legislation to update and improve programs.
- Help Congress partner with and/or balance other branches.

The Comprehensive Congressional Budget Act would transform federal budgeting.

- All spending and revenue would be in the budget bill.
- Give members of every committee a way to review its programs in the context of a complete budget:
 - Appropriations: Discretionary spending.
 - Authorizing: Direct spending line-items with proposed changes.
 - Ways & Means, Finance: Direct spending and tax bases, rates, & preferences.
 - Budget: Supervise and enforce.
- Committees would own their portfolios: submissions would be bundled as reported for the floor.
- Critical backstops:
 - Absent budget resolution by April 15, baseline allocations deemed for committees.
 - For a committee that does not make a compliant submission in time, Budget committees would insert current-law line items.
- An annual, comprehensive budget could replace budget reconciliation or move alongside it.

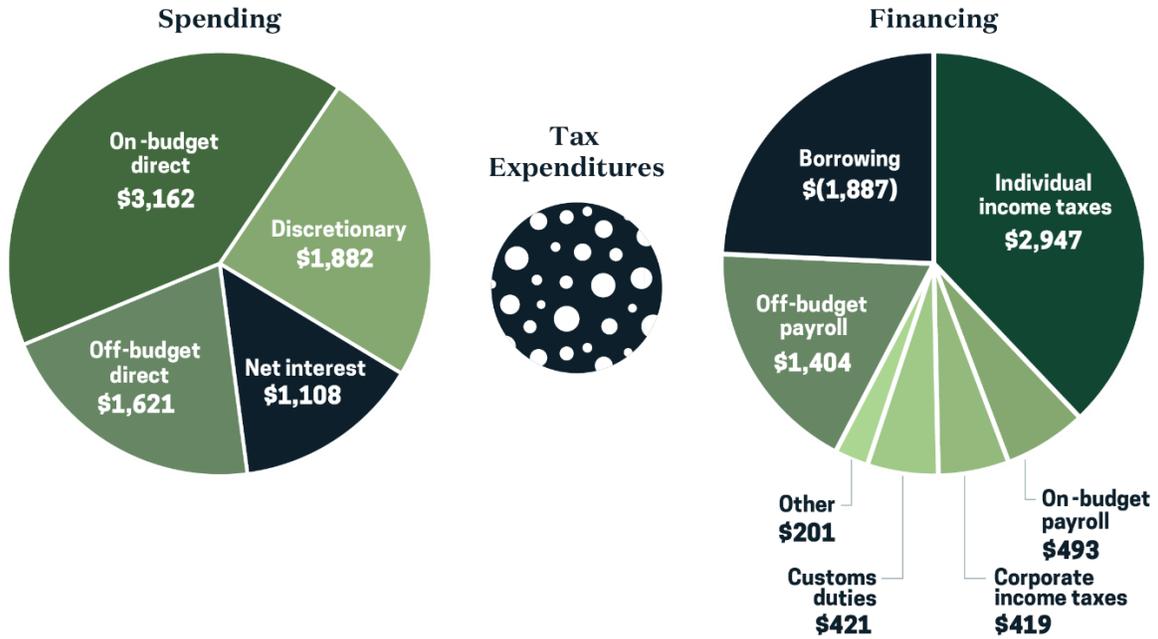
A comprehensive budget is far better than a leadership-driven omnibus deal.

- Includes all line items as a matter of course, not only whatever bill negotiators can agree on.
- Empowers all members to exercise their unique talents in committees and on the floor.
- Strengthens Congress' ability to review, coordinate, and update all federal programs.

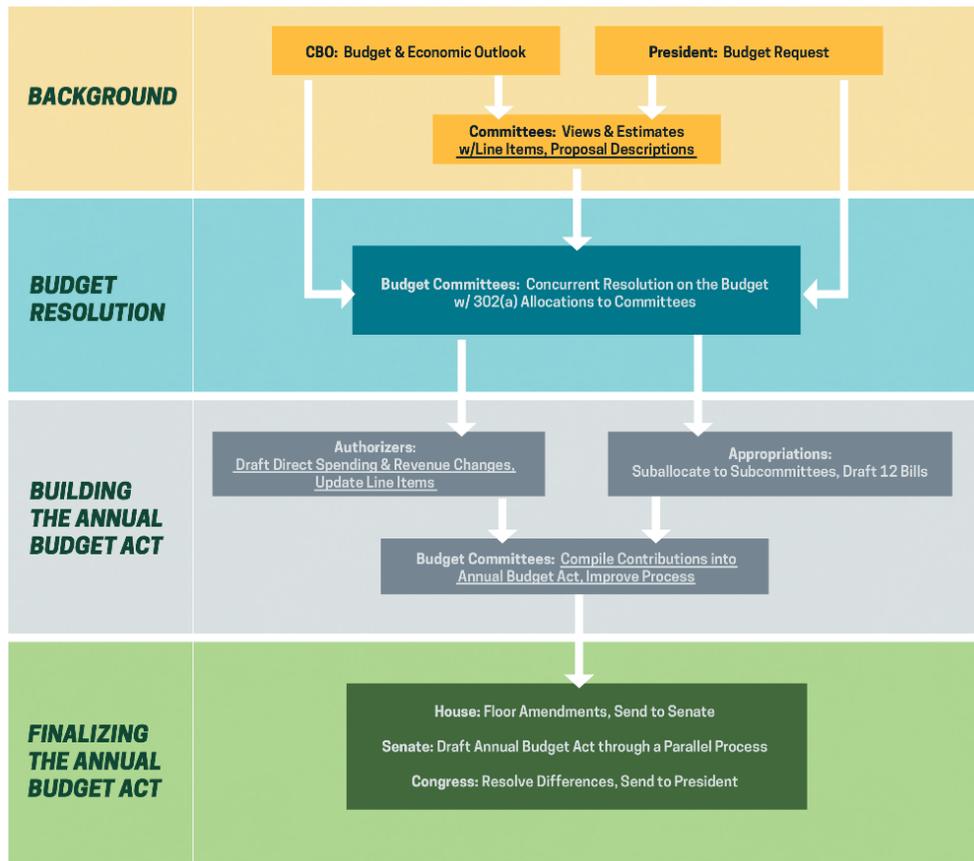
For more information.

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The Federal Budget in 2027 (\$ billion)



Building the Annual Budget Act (underlined is new)



<https://americansforprosperity.org/policy-corner/what-is-ccba/>