

TheCapitol.Net's Executive Conference:
Advanced Congressional Budget Procedures

Sample Agenda – see www.BudgetProcedures.com for schedule
Washington, DC

Instructor: Dr. Allen Schick

Day One

8:30 Welcome and Introduction
TheCapitol.Net

8:35 Budgeting for Surpluses and Deficits

* Dr. Schick will discuss the reasons behind the end, and the return, of the federal deficit, and the implications for the politics of budgeting.

Congressional Budgeting Today

- * The framework and basic concepts of budgetary accounting and the congressional budget process, the key players and their basic roles and relationships
- * The two federal budget processes: discretionary and mandatory spending
- * Budget authority vs. budget outlays

10:00 Break

Begin "Walk Through" of Budget Documents

Dr. Schick will walk through the relevant documents (legislation, reports, agency budget documents) produced during each of the following stages of the budget process.

STAGE I: The Congressional Budget Resolution Process and Reconciliation Process

- * The budget resolution as a legislative framework
- * How to interpret the budget aggregates, functional allocations contained in the budget resolution
- * Enforcing the budget framework through reconciliation
- * Why the budget resolution and budget enforcement rules no longer work
- * The death of PAYGO

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Day One (continued)

11:50 Lunch at *Montpelier Room*

6th Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress

1:00 STAGE I continued: The Congressional Budget Resolution Process and Reconciliation Process

2:20 Break

2:30 STAGE II: Authorizations

(a break will be taken at a convenient time)

- * Key features and different types of authorization bills
- * The relationship of authorization and appropriations legislation and how differences between the two are reconciled
- * The trend toward annual authorizations and how this impacts power relationships in Congress

4:00 Day 1 Program Concludes

Day Two

8:30 STAGE III: Appropriations

(a break will be taken at a convenient time)

- * The traditional role of the House initiating appropriations bills; the rules and structure in place to move this "must pass" legislation through committee and floor consideration
- * Changes in the appropriations process including Senate initiation of appropriations bills, and conflict in the appropriating process
- * How the various parts of an appropriations bill relate to one another
- * How to interpret the nuances of legislative language (expects vs. directs, may vs. shall, etc) in appropriations bills and reports
- * Track Senate amendments to House-passed appropriations bills
- * How the Senate's lack of formal rules and structure impacts the path of appropriations bills through the Senate; the use of unanimous consent

STAGE IV: Final Actions on Appropriations

(a break will be taken at a convenient time)

- * How differences between House and Senate legislation are reconciled
- * How to interpret the conference report and to determine the status of your program and final dollar amounts agreed to by the conferees

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Day Two (continued)

12:00 Lunch at Capitol Hill Club, Capitol Room (Fourth Floor)

12:20 Luncheon Address: A Member's Perspective on the Budget Process
Former Member of Congress

1:10 Break

1:15 STAGE V: Implementing the Budget Process

* The flow of monies following the passage of appropriations including apportionment, allotments, obligations, and outlays by executive agencies

2:30 Break

2:40 Integrating the Budget and Performance

- * Definitions of, and managerial conditions for, performance budgeting
- * OMB's tools for assessing program performance
- * Principles and issues in performance measurement

3:30 The Budget: Short- and Long-Term Prospects

- * What will happen with the appropriations "end game?"
- * The future of the budget process

4:00 Complete Conference Evaluations and Conference Concludes

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