WISCONSIN BUDGET PROCESS

Every two years Wisconsin's government decides on a new budget. First, in February of odd numbered years, the Governor introduces recommendations on how money in our state should be spent and collected. Then, for the next few months the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) reviews the Governor's proposal.

Joint Finance Committee

The JFC is comprised of 16 state legislators: eight Assembly members (Representatives) and eight Senators. The JFC holds hearings throughout the spring to get feedback from citizens. Generally, three to six hearings are held across the state.

Following the hearings, the JFC reviews testimony and recommends amendments. Their recommendations go to each of the houses for approval or further amendments. The final step is the Governor's signature. The process should be completed by the end of June; the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Where You Fit In

Any Wisconsin resident can be a part of the budget process by attending a hearing or submitting written testimony. It's important to educate legislators on what's happening in your area – after all, they represent you!

Regardless of whether it's a budget year, you can communicate with your Senator and Representative (e.g., in-person meetings, letters, emails, phone calls) to let them know what you're working on and what's important to you.

Your local FACT Advisor can help you prepare compelling testimony. Whether your testimony will be spoken or written, check out FACT's JFC resources for useful templates and examples.

Adapted from: Spark Advocacy Guide (2022)