



March 4, 2025

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager *SM*

Subject: **Budget Schedule for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Update**

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the FY 2027 Budget Update process along with a schedule of important dates and events.

The FY 2027 Budget Update process will be structured in phases starting in earnest with an outline of the process on Monday, March 2nd at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The first phase, Budget Education and Outreach, includes a “Budget Basics” presentation in a virtual session on March 23rd at 6:00 PM, which can be registered for online (<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/budget-engagement/>). Additionally, an interactive session on the City’s Budget will be part of the annual Neighborhood Summit on April 25th.

The second phase, Budget Policy Motion – Goals and Priorities, which partially overlaps with the first phase of the FY 2027 Budget Update process will kickoff at the regular meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee on March 2nd. This phase will include numerous community engagement sessions throughout March with a planned series of public Budget Hearings in the evenings on March 4th, March 11th, and March 16th. On March 16th, the City Manager will provide an overview presentation of the City’s strategic priorities. Additionally, the Office of Performance and Data Analytics (OPDA) will present results from the Community Survey and provide an update on Performance Based Budgeting (PBB). Continuing in March and April, departments will be making informational presentations on their department’s mission, and services; recent budget and staffing history; performance measures for FY 2026 and proposed measures for FY 2027; FY 2027 budget reduction impacts on performance, other service delivery challenges affecting their department, and accomplishments. These presentations will be held over six meetings across four weeks in March and April during the regular meetings of the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee on March 16th, March 30th, and April 6th and during three special meetings of the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee on March 18th, April 1st, and April 8th.

Once the department presentations are completed, the City Council will begin to develop a Budget Policy Motion for the FY 2027 Budget Update. The Budget Policy Motion is an annual process in which the City Council makes a motion providing direction to the City

Administration with regard to policy guidelines and priorities for the upcoming budget. In early April, as part of a regular Budget, Finance & Governance Committee meeting, a public hearing will be held on the Budget Policy Motion, which will then go to the City Council for adoption.

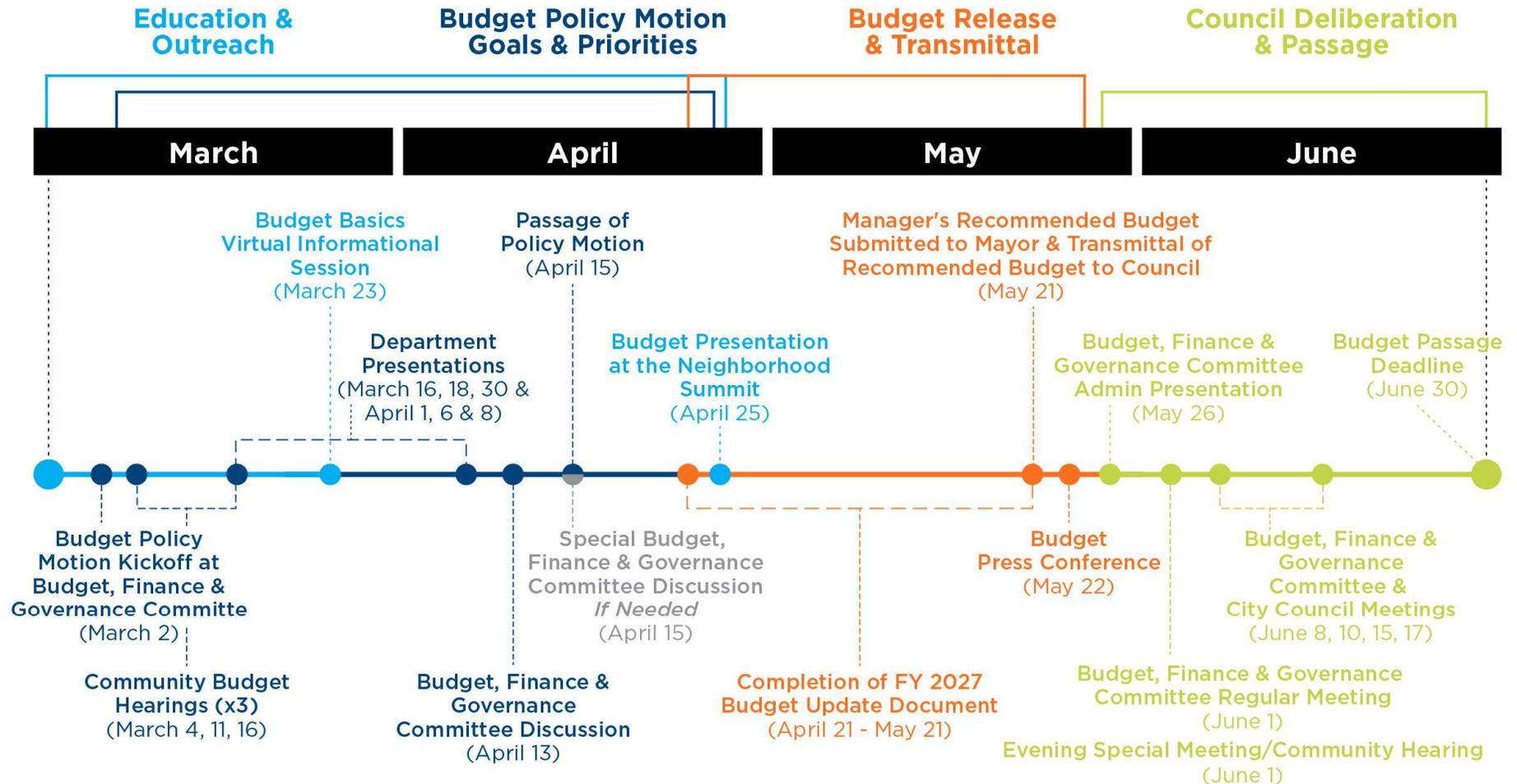
The City Manager is working toward completion and release in mid-May of the Recommended FY 2027 Budget Update. While a deficit is currently projected, the City Administration will recommend a balanced budget for FY 2027 through a combination of revenue increases and/or expenditure decreases. The City Manager's Recommended Budget will then be transmitted to the Mayor, who has up to 15 days to recommend changes to the Budget before transmitting the Budget to the City Council. In line with previous practice, it is expected that the City Council will begin budget deliberations at the end of May with a public Budget Hearing scheduled for early June. The City Council can then make budget motions to alter the Recommended Budget leading up to the scheduled passage of the FY 2027 Budget Update on June 17, 2026. Dates during the Final Budget Process phase are tentative.

A graphic of the FY 2027 Budget Update schedule is provided on the next page.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
Andrew Dudas, Budget Director

Attachment

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET UPDATE SCHEDULE



For additional information, visit cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/budget-engagement