

TENNESSEE SENATE DISTRICT 21

VOTER EDUCATION SERIES



PART 2:
HOW DO TAX DOLLARS
FLOW DOWN TO
CONSTITUENTS?

TSD21

Voter Education Series



PART 2: OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this section observers will:

- **Be** introduced to the formal process for setting the Tennessee State Budget
- **Learn** how the Senator can act on behalf of constituents during the budget approval process
- **Be** introduced to some methods for assisting community groups, grass-root efforts and government agencies to work collectively in the allocation and use of public dollars

THE TENNESSEE STATE BUDGET ALLOCATION PROCESS



BUDGETARY PROCESS

Planning and Estimation:

Immediately after a new fiscal year begins each July, the staff of the Division of Budget begins making plans for the budget that will be considered by **the General Assembly** for the subsequent fiscal year.

Preparation of the Budget:

After the receipt of agency budget requests, analysts with the Division of Budget begin the process of **balancing expenditures against estimated revenues**. Within this constraint, funds must be provided for **Administration initiatives of high priority**, activities that must be sustained as mandated by state or federal statute, and the day-to-day operation of state government.



BUDGETARY PROCESS CONTINUE

Legislative Deliberation:

After the Budget Document and Budget Message have been presented, the appropriation process is initiated. The Appropriations Bill, prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, is introduced and referred to the Finance, Ways, and Means Committees of both houses of the Legislature. The Senate and House of Representatives must ultimately pass the exact version of the Appropriations Bill for it to be enacted into law.



Budget Execution:

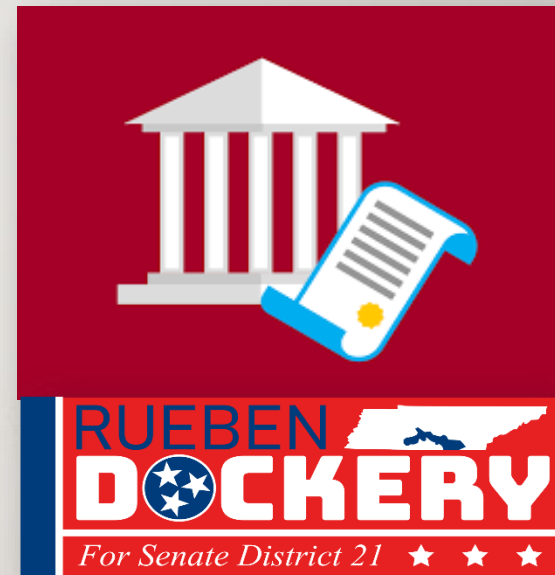
When passage of the Appropriations Bill is complete and it is enacted into law, the execution of the act begins. Invariably, there are changes from the Budget Document as presented by the Governor to the General Assembly and the Appropriations Act that is adopted.

ADMINISTRATIVE TENNESSEE AGENCIES

Subsequently after the general assembly has passed the budget and it is signed into law by the governor, it is in the hands of the various state agencies to administrate public funds. Their actions are directed in part by the input of legislators (the Senator) during the planning process. Relative agencies for our discussion are:

- ***Department of Education***
 - I. 21st Century Community Center Grants
 - II. Family Literacy Grants
 - III. Supplementary Educational Support Grants

- ***Department of Health***
 - I. Community Education Grant
 - II. Other Subcontracts Opportunities

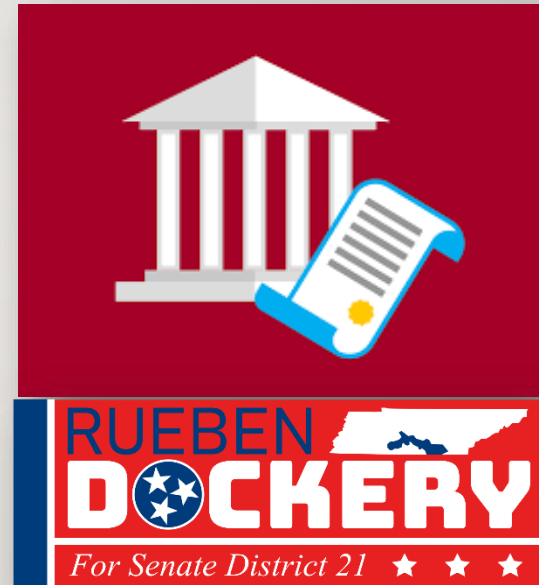


ADMINISTRATIVE TENNESSEE AGENCIES CONTINUE

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- ***Economic & Community Development***
 - I. Community Development Block Grants
 - II. Business Resources
 - III. Entrepreneurism

- ***Juvenile and Family Courts***
 - I. RFPS/Grants
 - II. Identifying contractual opportunities

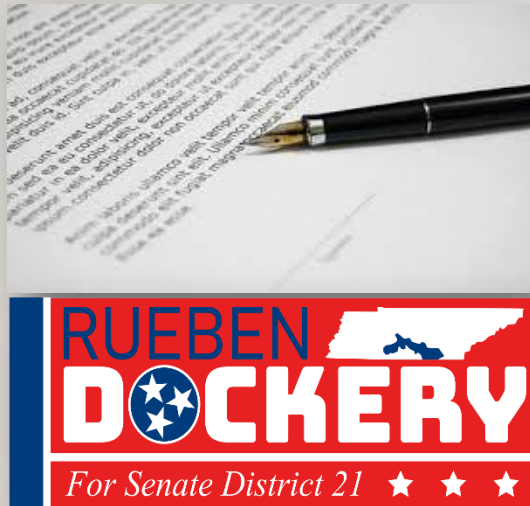


PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF STATE FUNDS



Based on the intended legislative purpose and description of qualified recipients, provisions and application of funding state sponsored programs, services etc., the designated state agency set requirements for granting awards, subcontracts and or grants. During the planning process involving members of the General Assembly, the Senator has the greatest opportunity to ensure that their constituent's needs are considered in the distribution formula.

GENERAL GRANT/CONTRACT APPLICATION PROCESS



After eligibility guidelines are established each agency craft specific application requirements for applying for available grant funds and or contractual services. At this level there should be a clear means of informing constituents of opportunities and how to navigate the application process. Open communication between the Senator and constituents is very important for this to work effectively.

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED STATE FUNDING



As the candidate for the office of senator is engaging constituents of their respective district, it is important to make sure that constituents are:

- Organized on the voter precinct level
- Aware of funding opportunities
- Trained in the process of searching out and applying for funds

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STAY TUNED FOR PART 3:

**CURRENT STATUS OF TENNESSEE
SENATE DISTRICT 21- ISSUES OF
IMPORTANCE?**