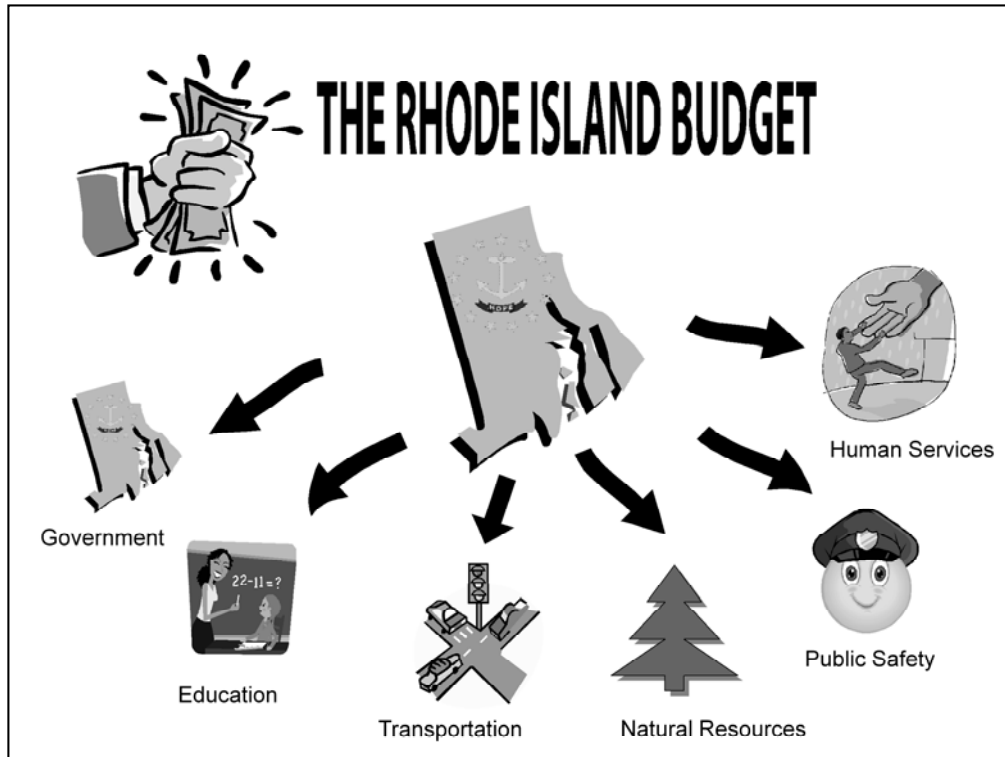


# THE RHODE ISLAND STATE BUDGET

*(Part 1: The budget process and timeline)*





A budget means having a certain amount of money and planning how to spend it.

RI has a budget that it uses to run the state.

Here are the main categories that RI budgets for:

Running the Government.

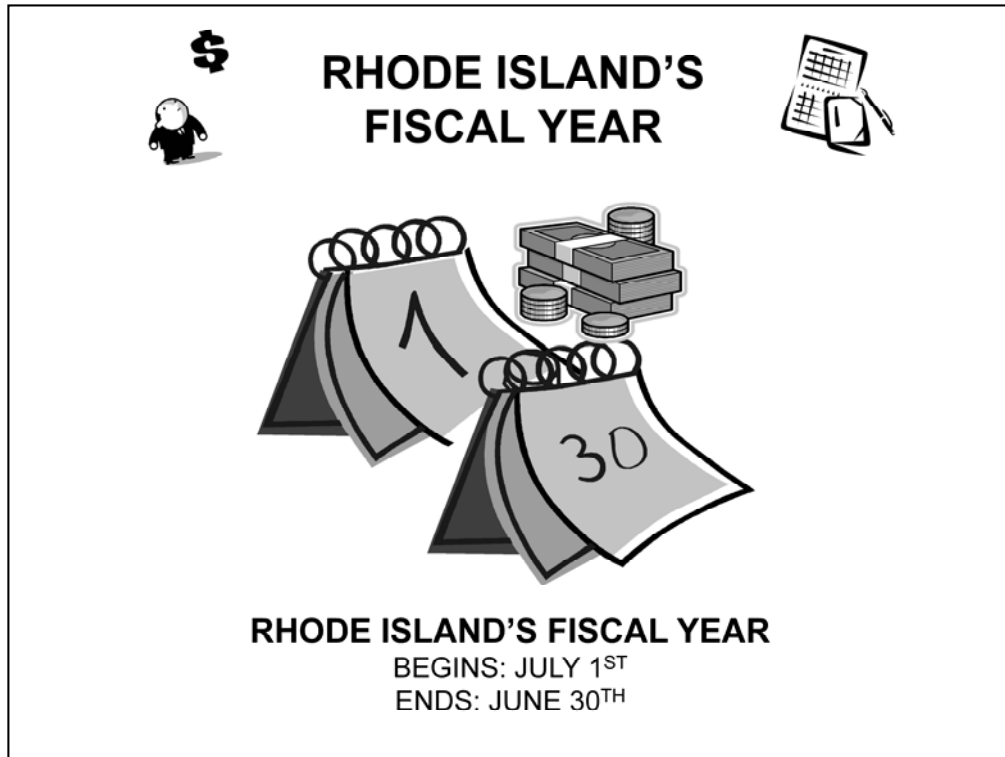
Public Education.

Transportation.

Natural Resources.

Public Safety.

Human Services.



The State of Rhode Island plans a new budget each year.

We run on a “Fiscal Year”, which is different than the “Calendar Year”.

The “Fiscal Year” starts on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends the following year on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



The graphic is enclosed in a black rectangular border. At the top center, the text "Planning Ahead" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a small icon of a person with a dollar sign above their head. To the right is an icon of a calculator and a pen. Below the text, on the left, are two spiral-bound notepaper pads; the front pad has the number "30" written on it. Next to the notepaper is a stack of coins. To the right of the notepaper is a dark silhouette of a person in a suit looking through binoculars. Below this silhouette is the year "2009". To the right of the silhouette is the year "2010" in a large, bold, black font. At the bottom center of the graphic, there is a block of text.

**Planning Ahead**

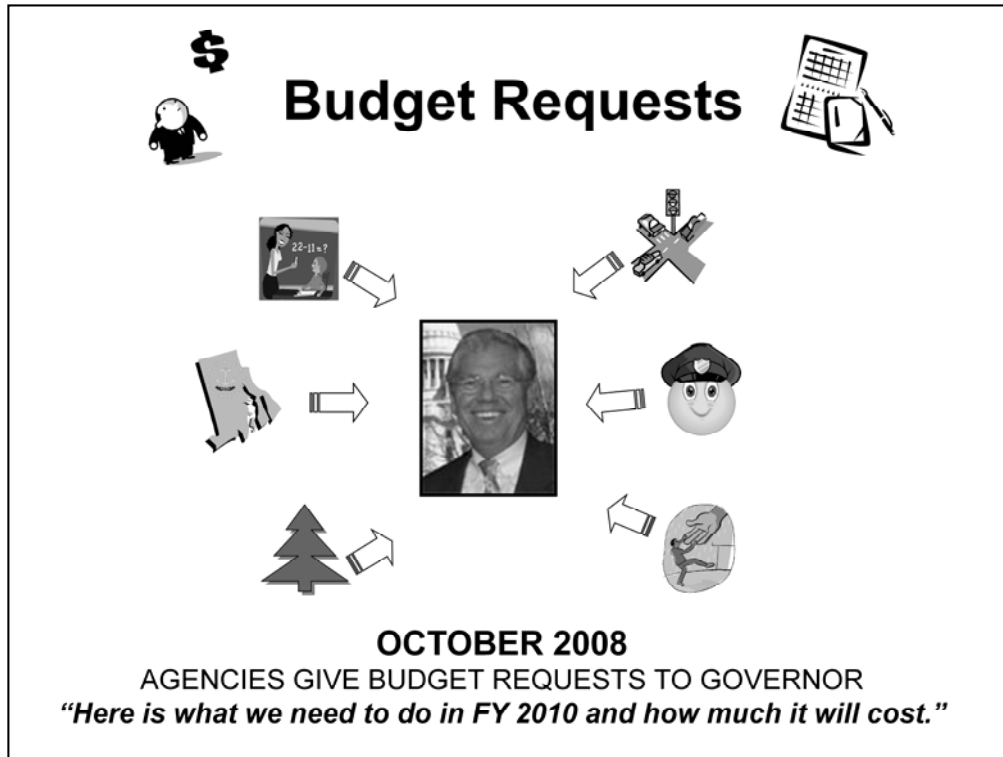
2010

2009

30

Between July 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>,  
the State is already Planning for  
the next Fiscal Year Budget!

Between July 1st and June 30th, the State is already Planning for the next Fiscal Year Budget!



Rhode Island Agencies think ahead and tell the Governor how much money they may need in the next Fiscal Year. This is called a "Budget Request."

The Governor may also ask them to tell him how they could save or spends a certain amount of money. This is called a "Budget Exercise".

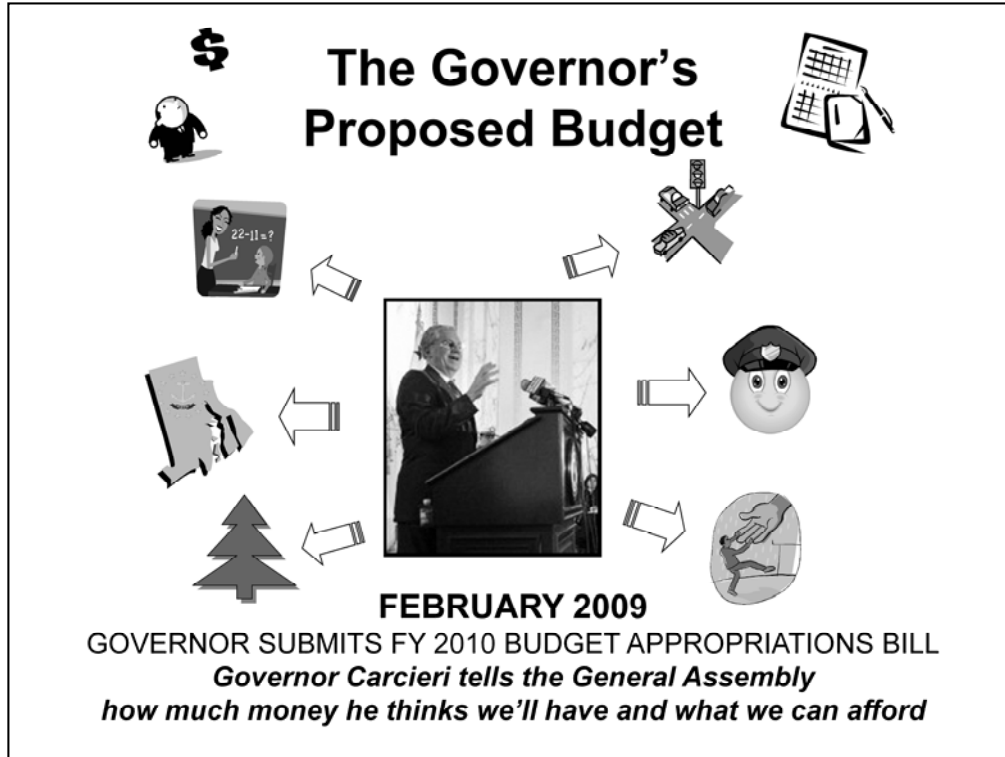


Rhode Island has a certain amount of income. The comes from taxes, money we get from the Federal Government, interest we may earn on money in the bank and charging for certain things like licenses. Our income is called "Revenue".

Rhode Island also has expenses to pay for the areas of government we already mentioned, such as roads, safety, education, and support services for different people.

The money we budget to pay for these expenses is called an "Expenditure".

People in Government and others help forecast what these revenues and expenditures will be. A forecast looks ahead and tries to guess what will happen in the future. An weather forecast is one example of this. In Rhode Island the government uses an economic forecast to predict revenue and expenditures.



The Governor looks at the Budget Requests he got from the different parts of Government and the Forecast of Revenue and Expenditures.

He combines this information to make a budget. The budget is his plan for how Rhode Island will spend it's money for the next Fiscal Year.

\$

 **Balancing the Budget** 



**MUST BE A BALANCED BUDGET**

Rhode Island law says the State Budget cannot spend more money than Rhode Island will earn. This means it must be “balanced”.




A budget deficit is not allowed.



**General Assembly**

**FEBRUARY – JUNE 2009  
MORE BUDGET TALK!**

**The General Assembly says  
*how much money they think we'll have  
and what we can afford***

After the Governor submits his budget, the Rhode Island General Assembly talks about it. The budget gets discussed in the House and Senate Finance Committee. Both the House and the Senate can suggest changes to the budget, but it still needs to be balanced.

**Time to Speak-Up!**

**FEBRUARY – JUNE 2008**  
MORE BUDGET TALK



**People *SPEAK UP***  
*Meetings, Rallies, Testimony*

*What is Important to YOU?*  
*How will the Proposed Budget Affect YOU?*

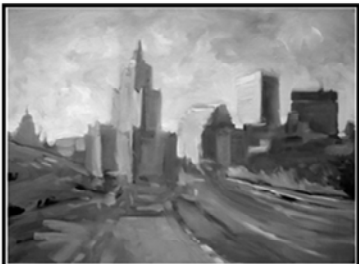
After the Governor has submitted his budget, it is open for discussion and change. People will have the opportunity to speak up about it. If the budget is going to make life harder or different for someone, they can tell the General Assembly and the Governor how it will affect them.

Just because the Governor proposed a cut in his budget does NOT mean it is cemented in stone. There is still time to change the budget before the final version.


For example, in the Governor's Budget proposal in 2008 he suggested cutting a lot of money for services for people who have developmental disabilities. Many people were upset about this. They joined together to write letters, make phone calls and attend rallies at the State House. As a result of their united voice, the Governor changed his budget proposal and so that the cut he suggested wasn't in it!

 **JUNE 2009** 

**JUNE 2009**  
THE FINAL 2010 BUDGET IS  
VOTED ON BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BEFORE THE 2010 FISCAL YEAR BEGINS



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**FISCAL YEAR 2010**



THE FINAL 2009 BUDGET IS VOTED ON BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BEFORE THE 2009 FISCAL YEAR BEGINS.

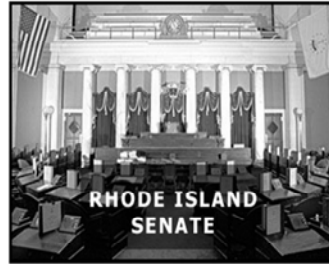
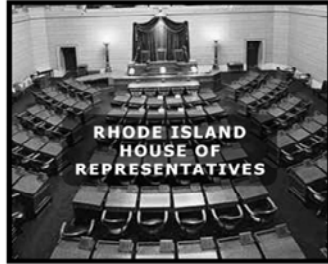
# VETO



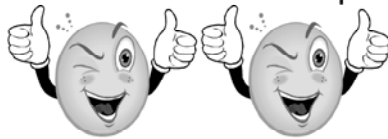
If the Governor doesn't like the budget  
that the General Assembly passes,  
he can **VETO** it.

If the Governor doesn't like the budget that the General Assembly passes, he can **VETO** it. A "veto" means saying NO.

# OVERRIDE

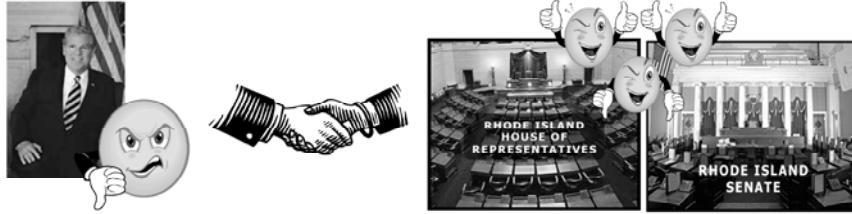


If 2/3 of the General Assembly vote for it, they can **OVERRIDE** the Governor's Veto and pass the budget.





If 2/3 of the General Assembly vote for YES for the budget, even after the Governor voted NO, they can **OVERRIDE** the Governor's Veto and pass the budget.


# CONSENSUS?




Instead of a Veto and/or and Override,  
the Governor and the General Assembly  
try to agree on a budget  
that will work for Rhode Island.

Instead of a Veto and/or Override, the Governor and the General Assembly will try to agree on a budget that will work for Rhode Island. Rhode Island needs to pass a budget so that government can continue to operate!

 **July 2009** 



**JULY 2009**  
THE 2010 FISCAL YEAR BEGINS



**REMEMBER:**  
*After all the Talk, the New Budget **MUST BE BALANCED***

The new 2009 FISCAL YEAR BEGINS on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**REMEMBER:** *After all the Talk, the New Budget **MUST BE BALANCED**.*



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