

GLOSSARY

Here are some terms you will use as you work on your budget.

Adopted budget. The financial plan adopted by the governing body which forms a basis for appropriations.

Ad valorem tax. A property tax computed as a percentage of the value of taxable property. See "Assessed value".

Appropriation. Based on an adopted budget, an authorization for spending specific amounts of money for specific purposes during specific periods of time. Presented in a resolution or ordinance adopted by the governing body.

Assessed value. The portion of value of real or personal property which is taxable. It is the lesser of the property's real market value or the constitutional value limit (maximum assessed value-MAV). The value limit may increase 3 percent annually unless qualifying improvements or changes are made to the property. These improvements or changes allow the value limit to increase by more than 3 percent.

Biennial budget period. A 24-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the second succeeding year.

Budget. Written report showing the local government's comprehensive financial plan for one fiscal year. Must include a balanced statement of actual revenues and expenditures during each of the last two years, estimated revenues and expenditures for the current and upcoming year.

Budget committee. Fiscal planning board of a local government, consisting of the governing body plus an equal number of legal voters from the district.

Budget message. An explanation of the budget and local government's financial priorities. Prepared by or under the direction of the executive officer or presiding officer of the governing body.

Budget officer. Person appointed by the governing body to assemble budget material and information, prepare the proposed budget, and oversee the budget process.

Capital outlay. Items which generally have a useful life of one or more years, such as machinery, land, furniture, equipment or buildings.

County elections officer. County clerk or registrar of elections.

District. See "Local government".

Expenditures. Decrease in net financial resources if accounts are kept on an accrual or modified accrual basis; total amount paid if accounts are kept on a cash basis.

Fiscal year. A 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

Fund. A division in a budget segregating independent fiscal and accounting requirements. An entity within a government's financial plan designated to carry on specific activities or to reach certain objectives.

Governing body. County court, board of commissioners, city council, school board, board of trustees, board of directors or other governing board of a local government.

Line-item budget. The traditional form of budgeting, where proposed expenditures are based on individual objects of expense within a department or division.

Local government. Any city, county, port, school district, public or quasi-public corporation (including a municipal utility or dock commission) operated by a separate board or commission.

Municipality. See "Local government".

Ordinance. Written directive or act of a governing body. Has the full force and effect of law within the local government's boundaries, provided it does not conflict with a state statute or constitutional provision. See "Resolution".

Organizational unit. Any administrative subdivision of a local government, especially one charged with carrying on one or more specific functions (such as a department, office or division).

Payroll expenses. Health and accident insurance premiums, Social Security and retirement contributions, and civil service assessments, for example.

Permanent rate limit. A district's permanent ad valorem property tax rate for operating purposes. This rate levied against the assessed value of property raises taxes for general operations. Permanent tax rate limits were either computed by the Department of Revenue for districts existing prior to 1997-1998 or are voter-approved for districts formed in 1997-1998 and later.

Program. A group of related activities to accomplish a major service or function for which the local government is responsible.

Property taxes. Amounts imposed on taxable property by a local government within its operating rate limit, levied under local option authority, or levied to repay bonded debt.

Proposed budget. Financial and operating plan prepared by the budget officer, submitted to the public, and budget committee for review.

Real market value. Value at which a property would be sold by an informed seller to an informed buyer on the appraisal date. Value set on real and personal property on a basis for testing the (Measure 5) constitutional limits.

Reserve fund. Established to accumulate money from one fiscal year to another for a specific purpose.

Resolution. An order of a governing body. Requires less legal formality and has lower legal status than an ordinance. Statutes or charter will specify actions that must be made by ordinance and actions that may be by resolution. (For cities, revenue raising measures such as taxes, special assessments and service charges always require ordinances.) See "Ordinance".

Resources. Estimated beginning fund balances on hand at the beginning of fiscal year, plus all anticipated revenues.

Revenues. Monies received or anticipated by a local government from either tax or nontax sources.

Supplemental budget. Prepared to meet unexpected needs or to spend revenues not anticipated at the time the regular budget was adopted. Cannot be used to increase a tax levy.

Tax levy. Taxes imposed by a local government unit through a rate or amount.

Transfers. Amounts distributed from one fund to finance activities in another fund. Shown as a requirement in the originating fund and a revenue in the receiving fund.

Unappropriated ending fund balance. Amount set aside in the budget to be used as a cash carryover to the next year's budget, to provide the local government with a needed cash flow until other money is received. This amount cannot be transferred by resolution or used through a supplemental budget during the fiscal year it is budgeted unless there is a significant calamity or natural disaster.

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