Seattle City Council
Central Staff

Seattle City Council 2026 Budget Process

Introduction & Overview

Lish Whitson, Central Staff Director

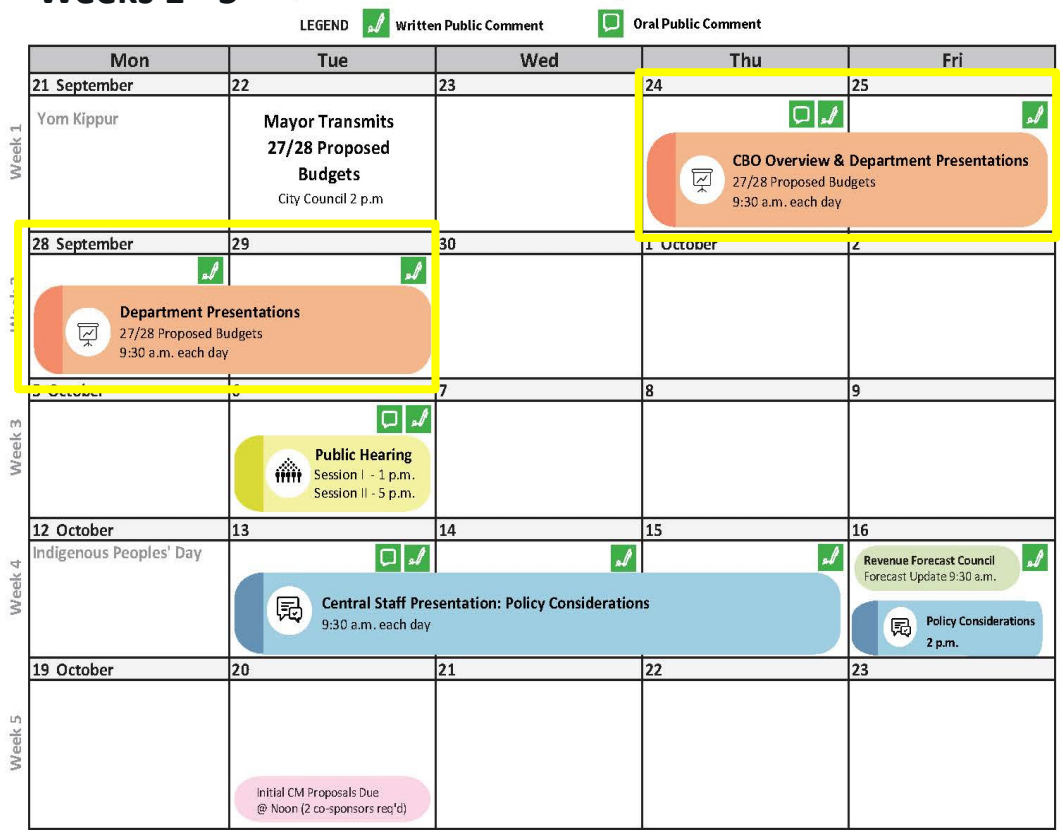
September 24, 2026

Council's Budget Review and Adoption Process

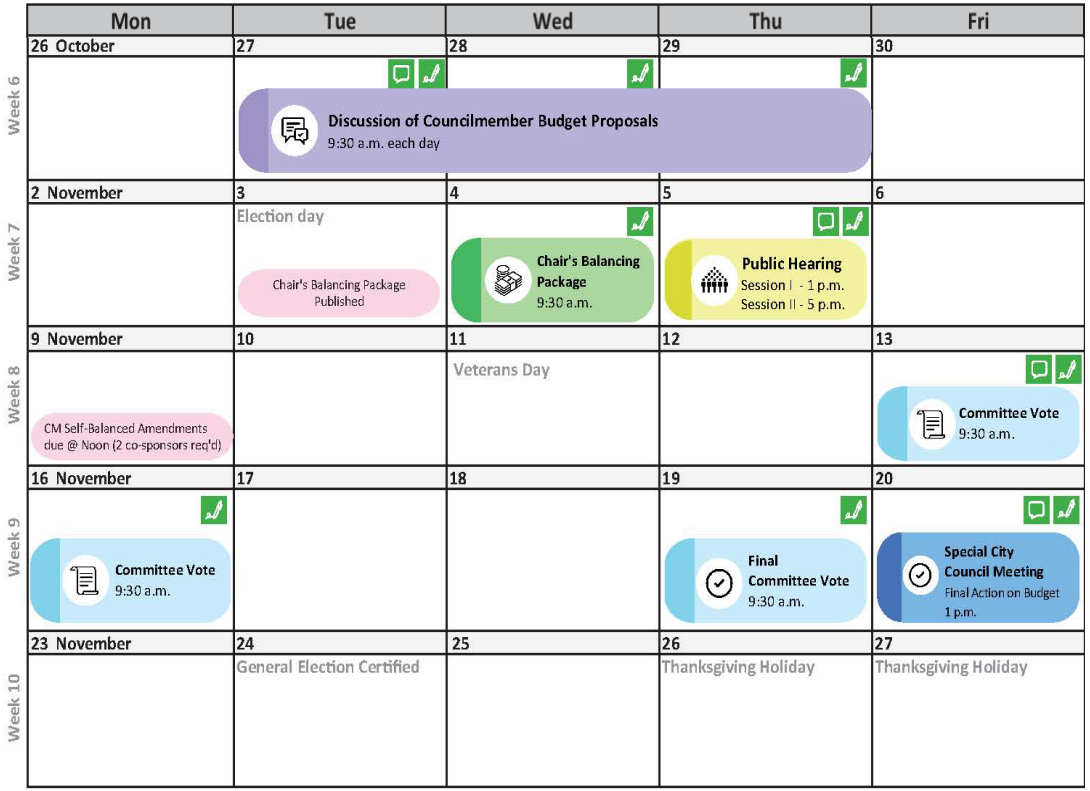
Step 1 Week 1-2	**Mayor transmits 2027/2028 Proposed Budgets** **CBO and Department presentations**
Step 2 Week 3-4	**Central Staff policy considerations** **Revenue Forecast Update**
Step 3 Week 5-6	**Discussion of Councilmember Budget Proposals**
Step 4 Week 7	**Presentation of Chair's Balancing Package**
Step 5 Week 8-9	**Self-balanced amendments to Chair's package** **Select Budget Committee vote**
Step 6 Week 9	**Final Council vote**

Fall 2026 Budget Calendar

Weeks 1 - 5



Weeks 6 - 10



Step 1
Week 1-2

Mayor Transmits 2027/2028 Proposed Budgets
CBO and Department presentations

	Thursday September 24	Friday September 25	Monday September 28	Tuesday September 29
Session I	**Public Comment**	Seattle Police Department	Human Services Department	Office of Housing
	Introduction & Overview	Community Assisted Response & Engagement		Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections
	CBO Proposed Budget Overview			Office of Planning and Community Development
Session II	Seattle Parks & Recreation	Seattle Fire Department	Seattle Department of Transportation	RESERVED (if needed)
	Seattle Center		Office of Economic Development	
	Office of Arts & Culture			

Step 2
Week 3-4

Next Steps: Public Hearing & Central Staff Policy Considerations

Public Hearing #1 (Oct 6)

- Session I – 1:00 p.m. – Remote
- Session II – 2:00 p.m. – In-person

Central Staff Presentation of Policy Considerations (Oct 13 – 16)

- Identify potential budget considerations and, where appropriate, offer policy options
- Opportunity for CMs to review, discuss, and ask questions about the Proposed Budget
- Opportunity for CMs to share amendment ideas they are considering

Economic Revenue Forecast Update (Oct 16)

- Economic and Revenue Forecast Council meets in the morning.
- Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts provides a presentation on the updated forecast to the Select Budget Committee in the afternoon.

Questions?