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# Virginia's Elections Cycle and Budget Cycle

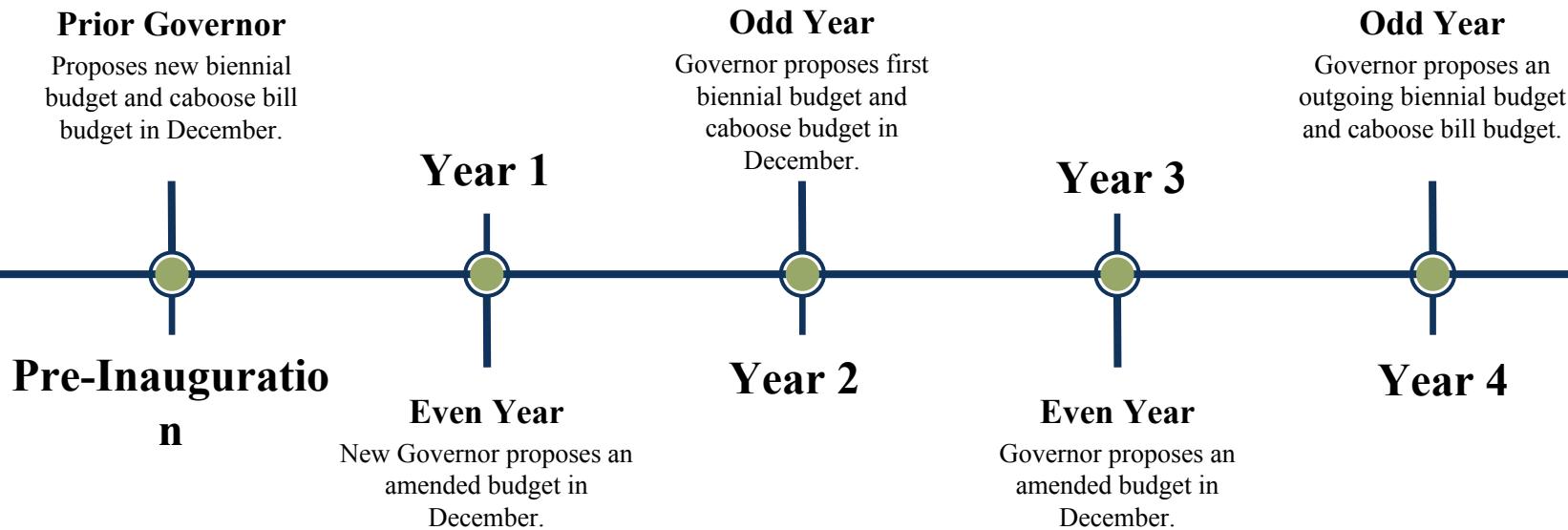
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# Overview of Virginia's Budget Cycle

- New Governor starts each term with the outgoing Governor's proposed biennial budget and caboose bill budget. (General Assembly may allow Executive Amendments to allow the new Governor to propose funding their priorities).





# No Direct Impacts to Virginia's Budget Cycle

- **Policy Question:** If we change Virginia's election cycle, should we also change Virginia's budget cycle to keep it the same as it is now?
  - Changing Virginia's election cycle without making any changes to Virginia's budget cycle would allow a Governor the opportunity to submit and implement two biennial budgets
  - Outgoing Governor would be submitting an amended budget to be considered when new Governor takes office.
- Previous legislation proposed a Code change to move the biennial budget process to begin in odd-numbered years.
  - This requires there to be a single annual appropriation bill to effectuate this change. Main impact is on the state's budget systems to accommodate a single year appropriation bill.



# How Are Elections Paid for in Virginia?

- Each state approaches funding elections differently
- In Virginia, the state supports local elections by paying for personnel costs (general registrars + local electoral boards)
  - Virginia also pays for the costs of administering Presidential primaries (required by Code) and maintaining a centralized voter registration system (required by federal law)
  - State funding has been made available to localities for costs associated with election administration in emergency situations (COVID19)



# Key Takeaways

- Changes to Virginia Budget Cycle are not required if the General Assembly and voters decide to advance a plan to move state and local elections to even years
- State general fund impacts are likely to be minimal with state elections support focused on personnel as opposed to implementation
  - If any implementation costs are identified by local elections offices, the General Assembly can choose to provide support to help with the transition