

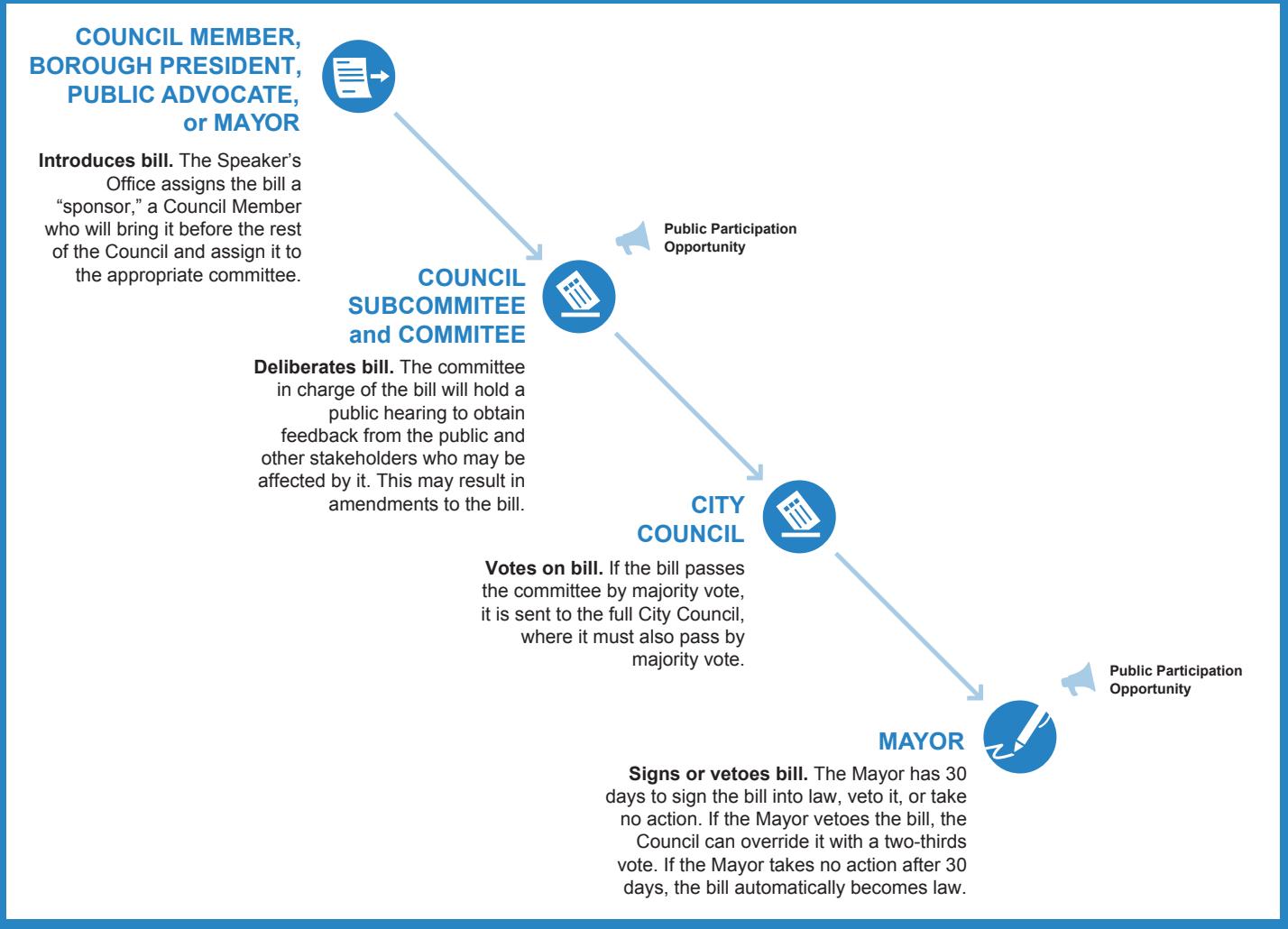
Legislative and Budget Process

LOCAL LAWS

The New York City Council writes and passes “Local Laws” on issues that affect the day-to-day lives of New Yorkers. Bills are typically drafted by Council Members and their legislative staff. If the Mayor, Borough President, or Public Advocate wish to put forth legislation, they must file it with the Council Speaker’s office.

For example, in 2019, the Council passed [Local Law 97](#), requiring most buildings to meet strict energy efficiency and emissions limits. In 2021, [Local Law 78](#) was passed to require certain projects’ land use applications to include a racial equity report.

New York City’s Legislative Process

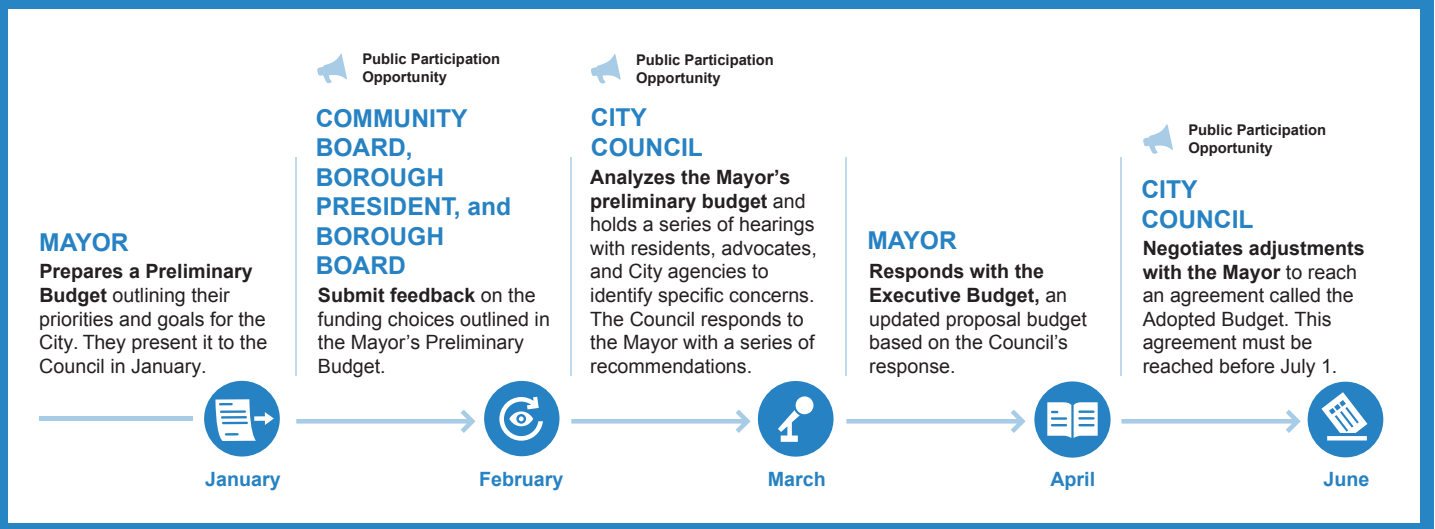


THE CITY BUDGET

The City must prepare three budgets each fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30:

- The **Expense Budget** covers the costs of operating City agencies and repaying debts owed to State and Federal governments for capital projects.
- The **Capital Budget** covers larger long-term investments in facilities and infrastructure, or “Capital Projects.” Examples include the construction of public schools, street reconstruction, and park improvements.
- The **Revenue Budget** outlines the money expected from taxes, State and Federal aid, and other sources of revenue. It determines the maximum amount in the Expense Budget, as the City is required to have a balanced budget.

New York City’s Budget Process



In addition, New York City residents in participating City Council Districts can participate in a process called **Participatory Budgeting**. Community members can propose and vote on public infrastructure projects that directly benefit the residents of their district, such as schools, parks, libraries, public housing, streets, and public spaces. Proposals can be submitted each fall and are listed on a ballot that all residents of that district can vote on each spring.

While also under the purview of City Council Members, it is important to note that Participatory Budgeting remains an entirely separate process from the City Budget.