



# Budget and Appropriations 101

Why the Federal Budget Matters and How to Engage

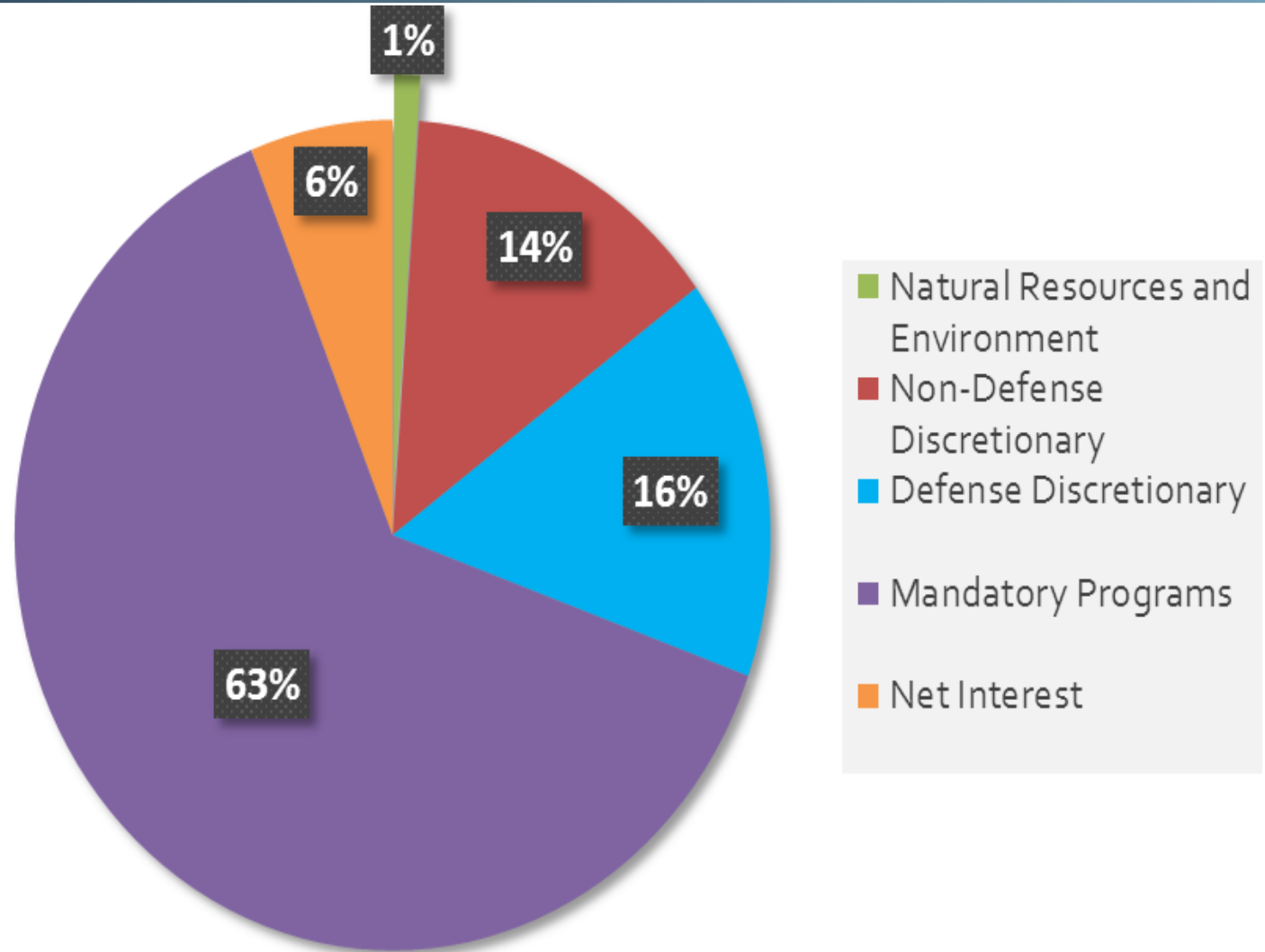




# Why do we care?



# Total Federal Budget



# Mandatory vs. Discretionary

## MANDATORY

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Social Security
- SNAP
- Federal Retirement Benefits
- Veterans Benefits
- Unemployment Insurance

## DISCRETIONARY

- Environmental protection education
- Job training
- Border security
- Scientific research
- Transportation
- Economic development
- Some low-income assistance
- Law enforcement
- International assistance

# The Congressional Budget Process

Calendar Year in which Fiscal Year Begins	
Date	Activities
By first Monday in February	President submits budget to Congress.
February-September	Congressional phase. Agencies interact with Congress, justifying and explaining President's budget.
<b><i>Mid-Late March</i></b>	<b><i>Debt Ceiling Breached</i></b>
April 15	Congress completes consideration of the budget resolution, sets 302A level. Appropriations process begins, committee decides on 302B allocations to subcommittees
<b><i>April 28</i></b>	<b><i>Continuing Resolution Expires</i></b>
September 30	Fiscal year ends. Congress must pass all appropriations bills by this date or else must pass a continuing resolution.
October 1	Fiscal year begins.



Budget → Appropriations

## BUDGET PROCESS ENDS

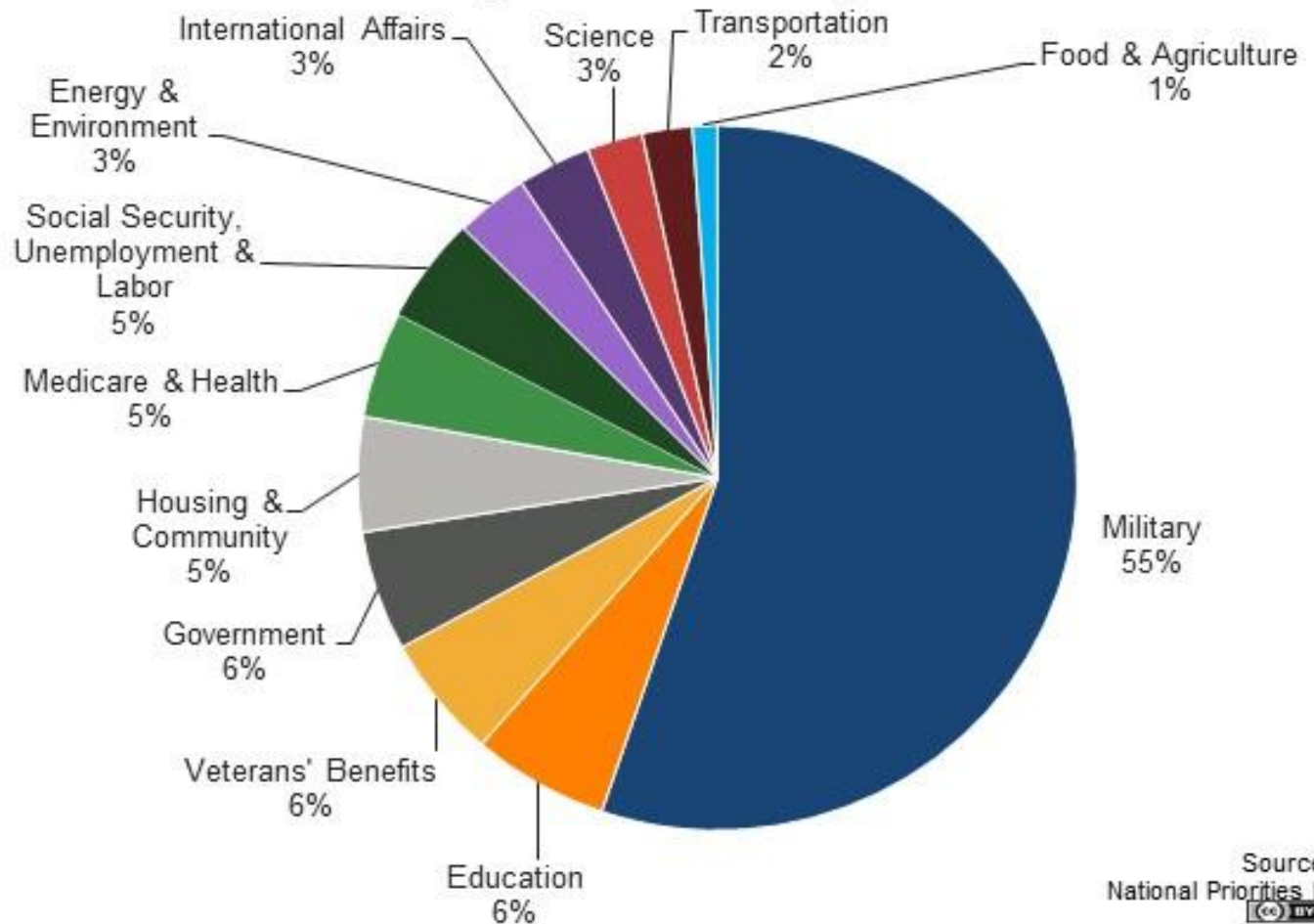
- Congress Completes Consideration of Budget Resolution
- Sets Topline Discretionary Spending level: **302A**

## APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS BEGINS

- Approps Committee decided **302B** levels
- Interior Allocation usually around \$30 Billion

# Discretionary Federal Budget

## President's Proposed Discretionary Spending (Fiscal Year 2015)



# Reconciliation

A powerful, expedited legislative tool

- Cannot be filibustered
- Only requires simple majority
- President can still veto

Can be used to make significant policy changes

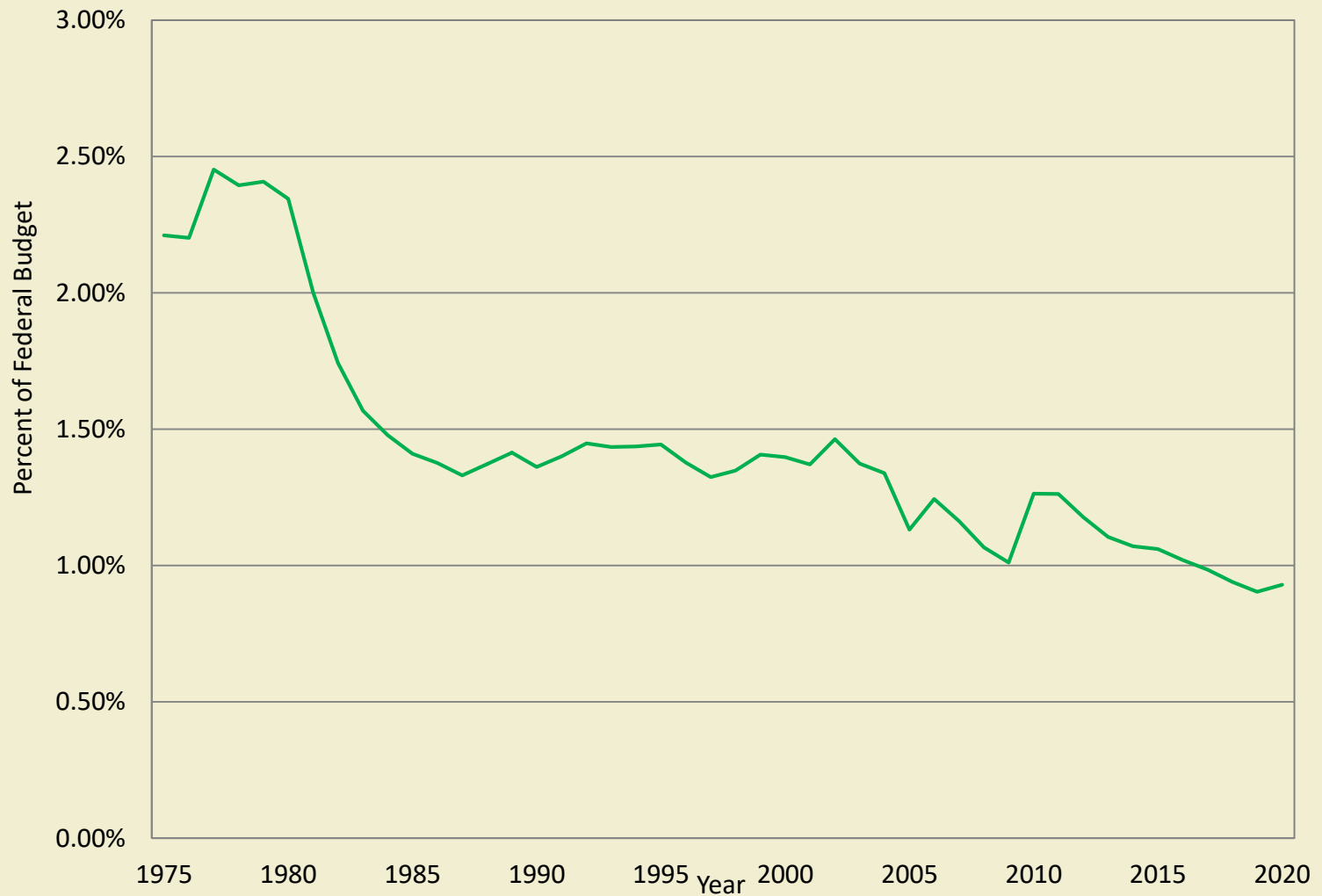
- Affordable Care Act

What's different this year?

- Two different reconciliation processes



# Conservation Funding



# How to Engage

## Agency

- Budget Requests
- Performance Measures
- Budget Justifications

## Administration

- Office of Management and Budget

## Congress

- Appropriations Testimony
- Public Witness Day
- Member Witness Day
- Dear Colleagues
- Appropriations Requests
- Member Advocacy

# Senate Appropriations Committee

## Full Committee



### Chairman

- Sen. Cochran (R-MS)



### Ranking Member

- Sen. Leahy (D-VT)

## Interior and Environment Subcommittee



### Chairwoman

- Sen. Murkowski (R-AK)



### Ranking Member

- Sen. Udall (D-NM)

# House Appropriations Committee

## Full Committee



### Chairman

- Rep. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)



### Ranking Member

- Rep. Lowey (D-NY)

## Interior and Environment Subcommittee



### Chairman

- Rep. Calvert (R-CA)



### Ranking Member

- Rep. McCollum (D-MN)

# Riders

Appropriations Bills are  
Always a prime target for  
Riders

- Why?
- What are Riders?
- What can we do about them?



# End Game

- Congress Passes all 12 Appropriations Bills
- Omnibus
- Continuing Resolution
- Government Shutdown

