As Adopted: October 6, 2026.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PRESESSION BUDGET HEARINGS RULES AND POLICY POSITION October 2026

1. Purpose. The purpose of these rules is to form a basis for the conduct of the presession budget hearings conducted by the Legislative Council beginning in October preceding a regular session of the General Assembly.

2. Parliamentary Procedure. Except as otherwise specified by these rules, the proceedings of the Presession Budget Hearings shall be governed by the Rules of the Arkansas Legislative Council as adopted and currently in effect for that body.

3. Meeting Participation.

In addition to the members of the Legislative Council, members of the Joint Budget Committee, who are not primary members of the Legislative Council, shall be privileged to attend the presession budget hearings and to vote on budget recommendations the same as regular members of the Legislative Council. (Arkansas Code § 10-3-507). The gathering of these members for purposes of budget hearings shall hereinafter be referred to as "ALC/JBC".

4. Budget Recommendations.

(a) The ALC/JBC shall prepare a recommended budget for submission to the General Assembly for each agency, department, constitutional office, and branch of State Government that received an appropriation in the preceding session of the General Assembly.

(b) If the members determine that an agency, department, or program should cease to exist, be reorganized, or be consolidated, a recommendation reflecting that determination shall be submitted to the General Assembly.

(c) Budget requests submitted to the ALC/JBC shall be prepared and submitted by the agency, department, constitutional office, or branch of State Government in the manner provided by law.

(d) The Governor or Governor-Elect shall be given an opportunity to review all budget requests, except those of constitutional officers and their departments, and to provide his or her recommendation on the budget request, if any. The ALC/JBC may proceed to consider and act upon budget requests prior to submission of the request to the Governor or Governor-Elect, but shall reopen action on any budget requests for which the Governor or Governor-Elect submits a recommendation.

(e) Consideration of a budget request shall be reopened for consideration automatically upon submission of a revised recommendation by the Governor for that budget request.

(f) Whenever the Governor wishes to present a budget request or an amendment to an action by the ALC/JBC the Governor shall submit a letter to the ALC/JBC setting forth the details of the request. These letters from the Governor shall be placed on the Agenda under the heading "Governor's Letters" for consideration by the ALC/JBC.

5. Action on Budget Requests.

(a) **Form of Motion for Approval.**

(1) For budget requests containing specific recommendations by the Governor or Governor-Elect, the chair shall state that the issue before the ALC/JBC is that the budget request be approved as recommended by the Governor or Governor-Elect.

(2) For budget requests that have not received a recommendation from the Governor or Governor-Elect, the chair shall state that the issue before the ALC/JBC is that the budget request be approved as requested by the department or agency.

(b) **Motion to Amend the Budget Request.**

(1) A motion to amend a budget request shall be in order after the chair has stated the issue before the ALC/JBC, unless the committee has voted to limit the consideration of such motions.

(2) If the Motion to Amend the Budget Request is not adopted the ALC/JBC shall then vote upon the budget as recommended by the Governor or Governor-Elect, or as requested by the department or agency if there is no recommendation for the Governor or Governor-Elect, as the case may be.

6. Reconsideration of Budget Requests. A motion to reconsider an action taken on a budget request by the ALC/JBC shall only be made by a member who voted in the majority of the vote on the budget request, and the motion to reconsider may be made at any time after the vote that is the subject of reconsideration, whether in the same or a later meeting. A motion to reconsider requires an affirmative vote of the greater of either twenty-seven (27) members or two-thirds (2/3) of the quorum present.

7. Subcommittees.

(a) By a majority vote of the members present when a quorum is present, the ALC/JBC may create subcommittees to perform duties specific to the budget hearing process. Any subcommittee created for budget hearing purposes will report to the ALC/JBC during budget hearing meetings.

(b) A subcommittee may meet as needed, upon either the call of the subcommittee chairs or a majority of the members of the subcommittee.

(c) The Senate Co-Chair and Vice-Chair and the House Co-Chair and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Council and the Senate Co-Chair and House Co-Chair of the Joint Budget Committee shall serve as ex officio members of all subcommittees created under this rule. However, the ex officio members shall only be counted towards the membership number necessary for a quorum of the subcommittee when present at the meeting at which a vote is taking place.

(d) Each subcommittee created under this rule shall consist of twenty (20) members, to include the six (6) ex officio members, as set forth in section (c) of this rule, and an additional seven (7) House members, appointed by the House Co-Chair of Legislative Council, and seven (7) Senate members, appointed by the Senate Co-Chair of Legislative Council.

(e) Unless otherwise stated in the motion, no salary recommendation of the ALC/JBC for an employee or group of employees is to be considered final action by the ALC/JBC until a report on the salary level is submitted by the subcommittee created to review salary level requests.

(f) Unless otherwise stated in the motion, no recommendation of the ALC/JBC regarding special language shall be considered final until a report regarding the special language being considered is submitted by the subcommittee created to review special language.

Policy Position: No recommendation of the Arkansas Legislative Council and Joint Budget Committee members regarding operating budgets is to be considered as approving or disapproving any fee or tax increase proposed unless the motion adopted by the committee expressly specifies otherwise.