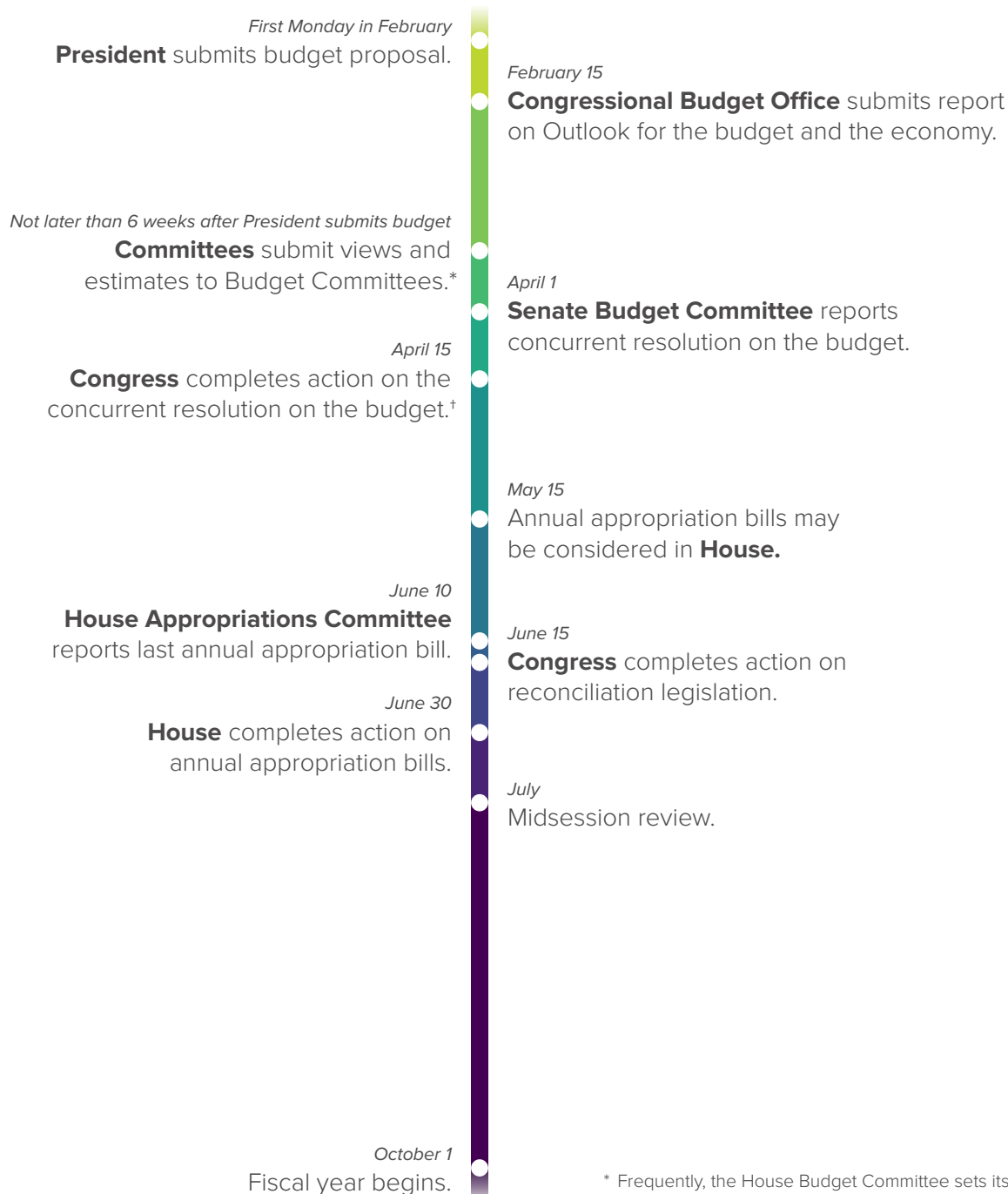


# A Timeline of the Budget Process

In statute, the Congressional budget process begins when the President submits the budget proposal. The President is required by law to submit a comprehensive federal budget no later than the first Monday in February (31 U.S.C. 115(a)). The Congressional budget process provides for the annual adoption of a concurrent resolution on the budget, which serves as a framework for the consideration of budgetary legislation. The current Congressional budget timetable sets April 15 as a target date for completion of the annual budget resolution.

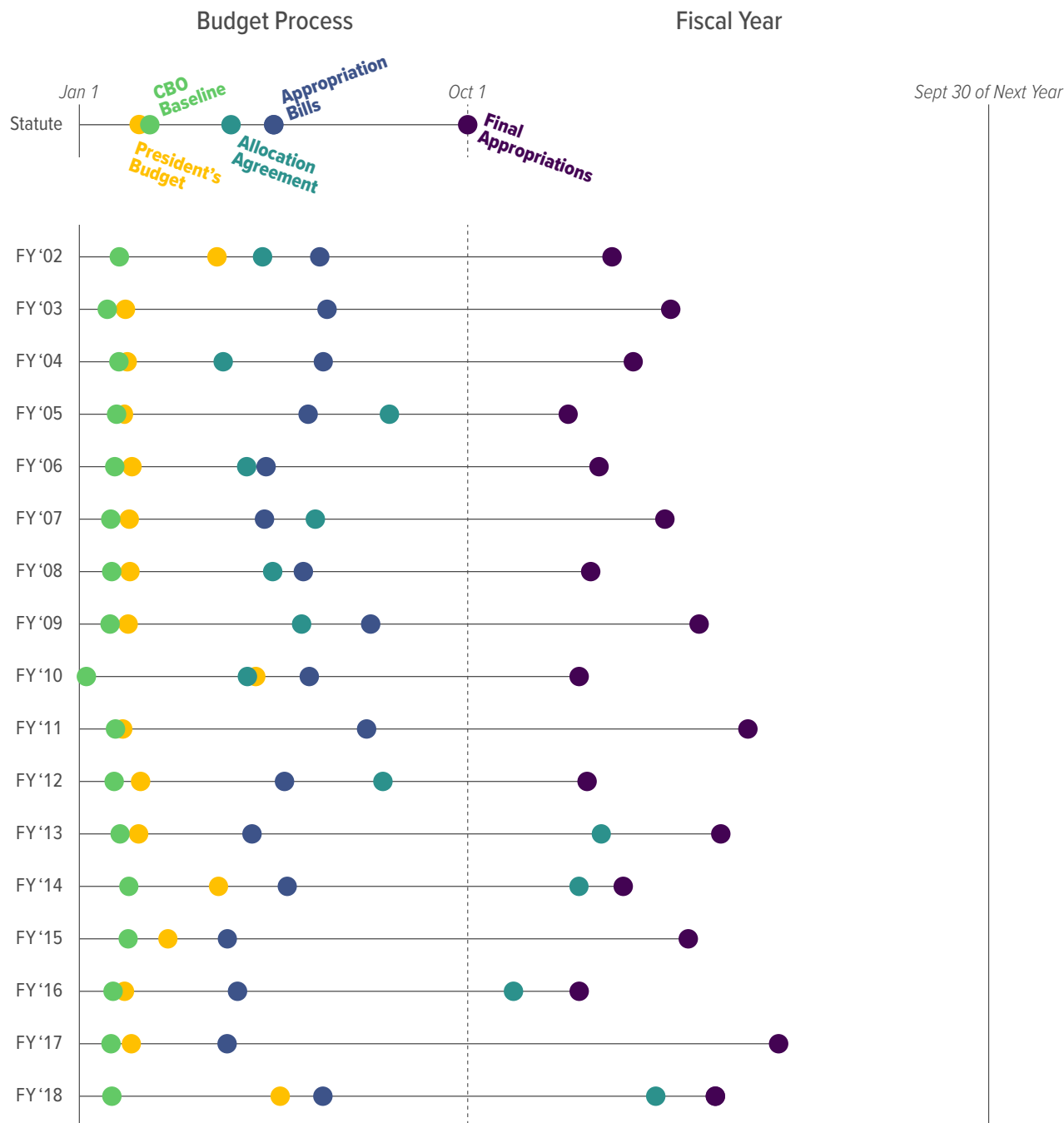


\* Frequently, the House Budget Committee sets its own date based on the Legislative Calendar.

† Concurrent resolutions are not signed by the President.

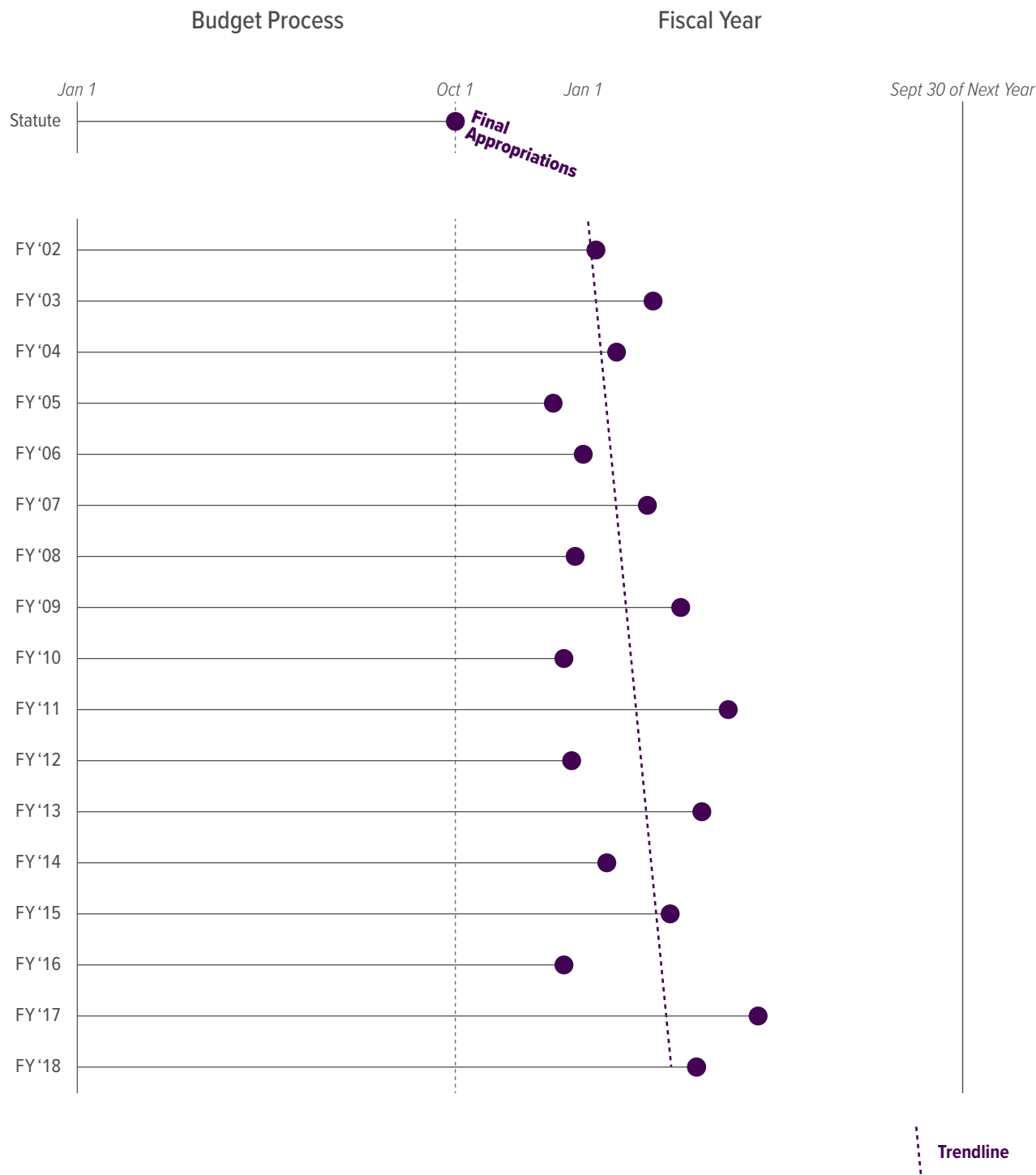
# Trends in the Annual Budget Process

In practice, budget resolutions and other forms of final funding allocations have been agreed to late or not at all. While the appropriation process generally starts on time, final appropriations have consistently been enacted after the start of the fiscal year and often after the start of the calendar year.



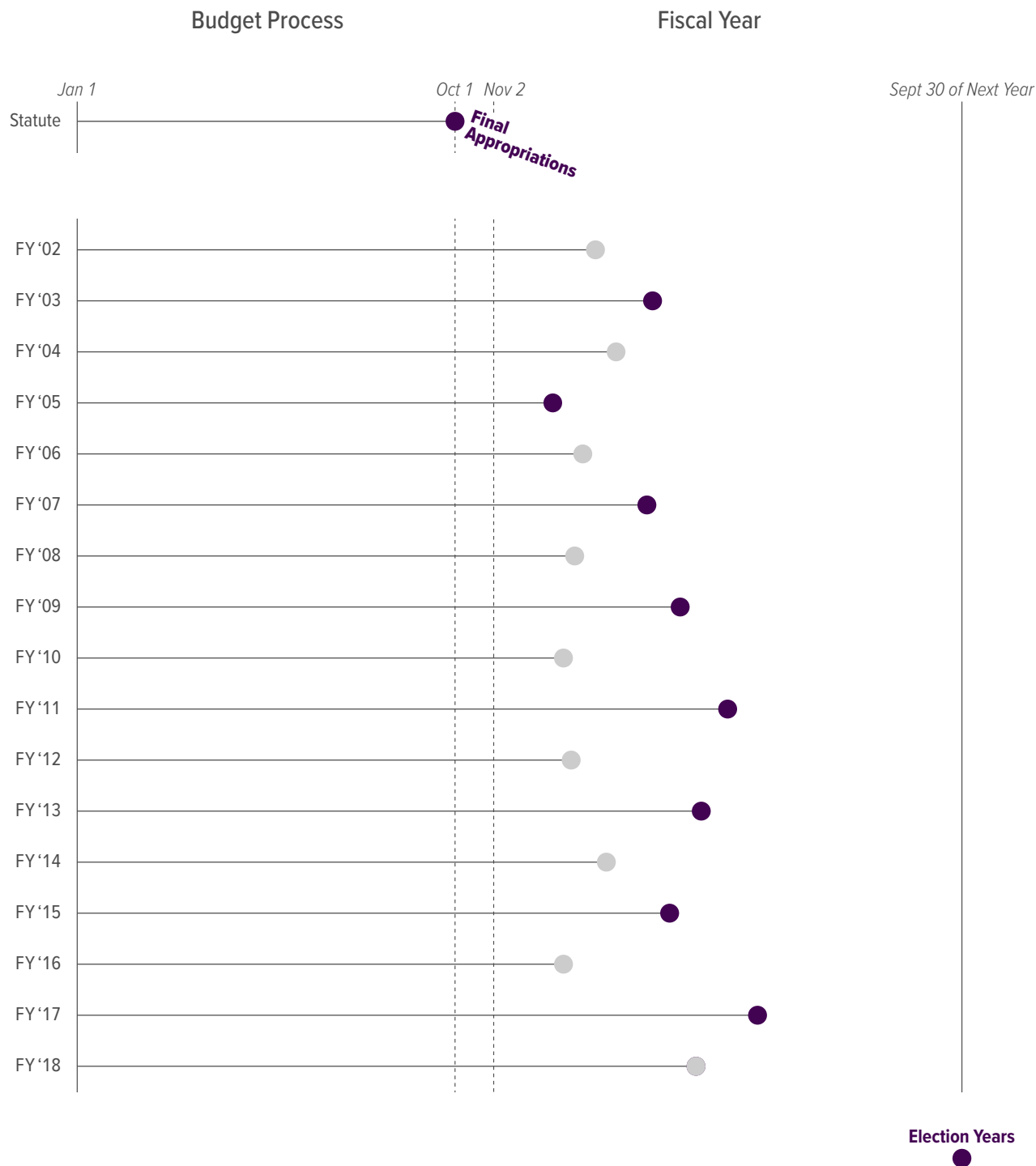
# Appropriations Have Been Late, and Are Getting Later

The intuition that the process is getting worse is confirmed by the tilt toward later appropriations.



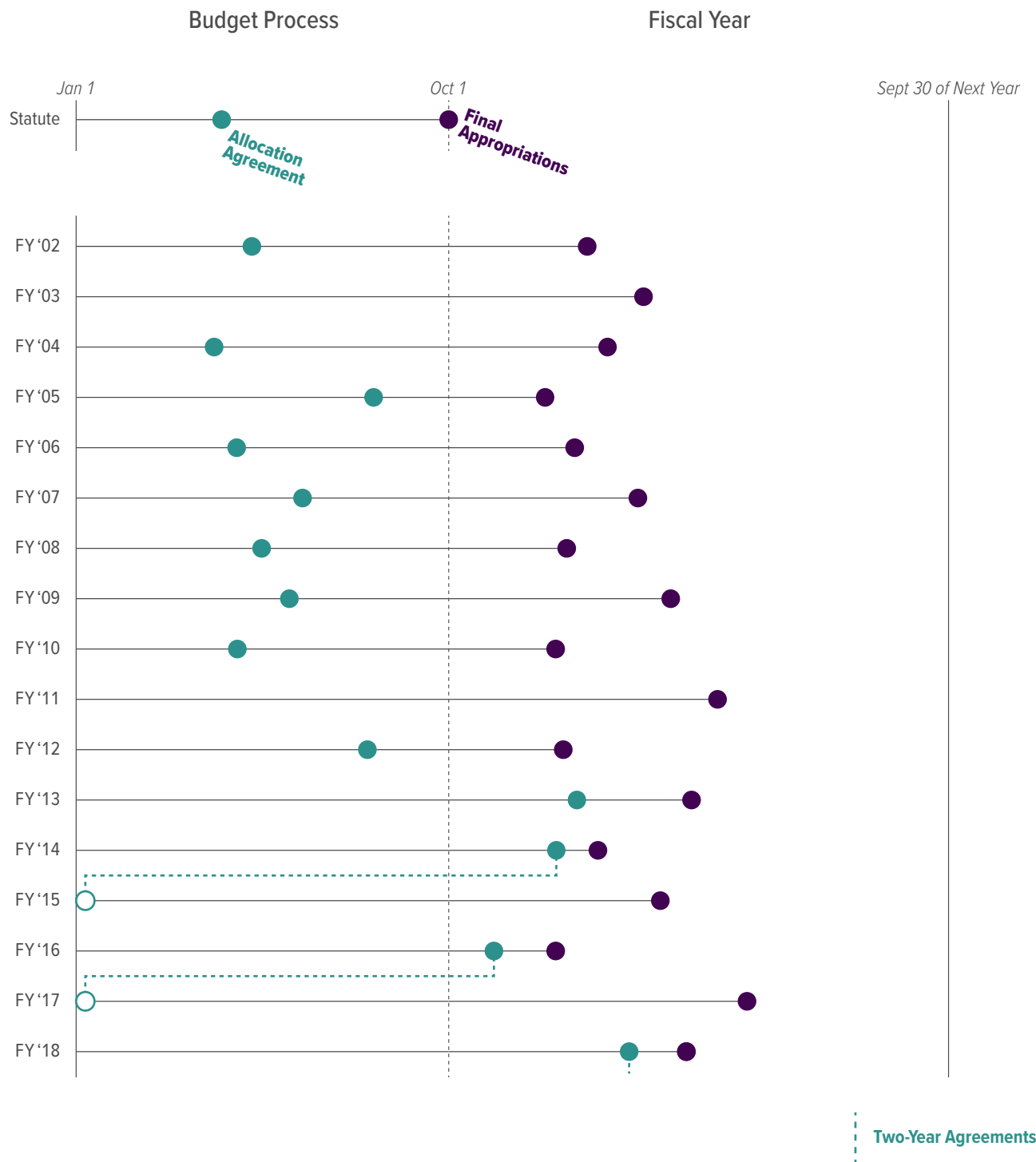
# The Budget Process Is Longer in Election Years

In election years, the delays in enacting final appropriations are more pronounced.



# Allocation Agreements Are the Most Variable Step

In years when there has been a two-year agreement on top line allocations, final appropriations have still been delayed; in the year following such agreements, even though allocations were already set, final appropriations were enacted even later.



# Appropriation Bill Passage Is Clustered

All appropriation legislation tends to be enacted late, and fewer individual bills have been enacted over time, instead being incorporated into omnibus legislation.

