

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

In 2011, a very small and highly secret group of delegates were given the mission of developing a new exciting and dynamic program area within Youth and Government. They succeeded; the result of which is an amazing, very competitive, and fun program, called the Department of Finance!

In state government, there is nothing more contentious or impactful than the process around the Governor's budget. Cut education. Cut welfare. Merge this department with that department. Tax this. Tax that. These decisions impact people's lives. And now these massive, far reaching decisions are in the hands of delegates within Youth and Government's new state budget program, the Department of Finance. This new program seeks to educate delegates on the issues and challenges surrounding the budget process in an exciting, fun, competitive, and educational manner.

The Very Basic Nuts and Bolts:

Delegates will be assigned to a large budget group of at least 50 delegates. Each large budget group will be competing with other large budget groups in the program. And all such groups will be given the same challenge: create a budget which the Governor will approve.

Similar to bills in the Senate or Assembly, delegates will be responsible for putting forth new policies or amending existing ones, which impact the state budget. As the budget touches upon practically everything in the government, these proposals' subjects will be very wide-ranging. But each delegate can only bring new or amended policies which are of the subject of their assigned smaller committee, such as corrections, education, or health care. All Budget Proposals which pass through the committees will be read and debated in the delegate's respective large group. Delegates will need to defend their ideas and present persuasive arguments for them, including financial cost or saving figures. All proposals which are approved by their larger group will be added to their respective budget. But, only one group's budget will win the challenge, and be chosen as the Governor's budget.

Program Highlights:

- A new, smaller, legislative chamber, debating a wide-range of budgetary issues
- Competitive and challenging
- Totally delegate-created, delegate-administered
- 65th ML/C Survey Data: 96.97% of DOF Delegates would recommend it to a friend

Ideal Delegates:

- Delegates interested in a smaller form of legislative chamber
- Delegates willing to work with Staff to further create a new program area (adaptability)
- Delegates who have good research abilities, and will work at home to develop new policies
- Delegates who have leadership abilities, or potential leadership abilities
- Responsible delegates who are fun, creative, and motivated to succeed

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