The Public Budgeting and Finance Primer
Key Concepts in Fiscal Choice
By Jay Eungha Ryu
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320 pages
About the Book
This primer succinctly summarises key theoretical concepts in fiscal choice for both practitioners and scholars. The author contends that fiscal choice is ultimately a choice of both politics and economics. The book first introduces budget institutions and processes at various levels of government, which restrict budget decision makers' discretion. It also explains budget decision makers' efforts to make rational resource allocations. It then shows how and why such efforts are stymied by the decision makers' capacity and institutional settings. The book's unique benefit is its emphasis on all the essential topics, with short, module-type chapters which can be read in any order.

Reviews
"Jay Eungha Ryu’s The Public Budgeting and Finance Primer brings public finance down from abstract clouds by recognizing that behind any abstract formulation resides real people with differences in what they know and what they desire, and who must put together programs and practices that not only must be articulated theoretically but must also be managed and administered by actual people. Where modern public finance generally locates its material as a proper subset of economic theory, Ryu’s text locates public finance as a multi-disciplinary field of study, centered on economics to be sure, but touching as well, and significantly so, on politics, public administration, and law." --Richard E. Wagner, George Mason University, USA

"This textbook is a very strong contribution in the area of public budgeting. The writing is compelling and engaging and will be a pleasure for students to read. The book is at its best when it details case studies or examples of various public budgeting concepts." --Ken Kriz, Wichita State University

"Jay Ryu's impressive text covers both fundamental and complex
topics of relevance to public budgeting and finance. The various chapters are designed to be short, content-rich and easily accessible to students. The book may serve as a valuable complementary text in both introductory and advanced courses in public budgeting and financial management. I plan to use it, and highly recommend it to others." --Robert S. Kravchuk, Indiana University

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