

The Legislative Process and You: How it Works and How to Make a Difference

Provided by the American Library Association
Washington Office

Have no fear! We'll explain muting, Q&A and other details when we start.

- About the Online Training Session
- Who's Speaking?
- Points of Influence in the Legislative Process
- Three "Sustained Advocacy" Strategies

Topics

- What's Happening?
- Mute Only Mode
- Q&A
- Recording and Follow-Up Materials

Logistics

Who's Speaking?



Stephanie Vance

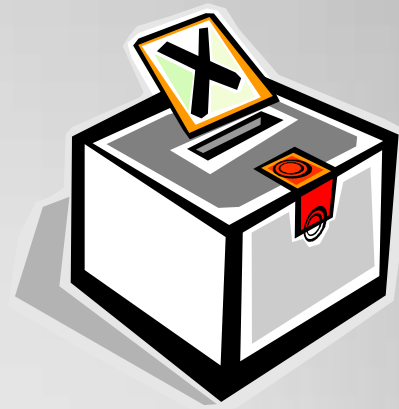
The Advocacy Guru and Author of: [The Influence Game: 50 Insider Tactics from the Washington D.C. Lobbying World That Will Get You to Yes](#)

In stores June 5, 2012



Where are we Starting?

Let's go to the polls!





I'm just a bill, just a
lonely old bill, and I'm
sitting here on Capitol
Hill...

... Surprisingly accurate!

Points of Influence in the Legislative Process

Overall Questions to Ask

- Timeframe (how long is the legislature meeting?)
- How are bills introduced? By whom?
- How are bills “calendared” at the Committee and Chamber level?
- What are the Committee procedures?
- What is the procedure for floor amendments/debate?
- Are there requirements that bills be considered by certain times?
- Are there “must pass” bills? If so, are there germaneness rules?
- How are differences between chambers resolved?
- How do you find this out?



- Where do bill ideas come from?
 - Direct experience with local issues
 - “Influentials” (friends, staff, family, local opinion leaders)
 - General interests
- How do they get written?
- How do they get introduced (or how do you find that out)?
- How can you get ahead of the curve?



Introduction

- What is “Referral?”
- Who does it?
- Why is it important?
 - Reduce number of steps
 - Get the bill in to friendly committees
- Keeping track
- How to get engaged (this is a tough one!)

Referral



Committee Deliberation

- Who are the chairs / co-chairs (or ranking) and members?
- How does your library relate specifically to these people?
- Who are champions? Who are opponents?
- Is there an opportunity for public comment? Who should make those comments?
- Preparing testimony (and particularly “softball” questions!)

- Rules vs. Unanimous Consent
- “Regular Order”
- Whipping for Votes



ANTOR P. LEADER

LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

LEGISLATIVE PROTOCOLS

Recent Chapters

- Chapter 1 (January) - Making process changes & health care act of 2017
- Chapter 2 (February) -
- Chapter 3 (March) -
- Chapter 4 (April) -

Floor Consideration



Resolving Differences Between the Chambers

- What are the Executive's options?
- What are potential legislative responses?



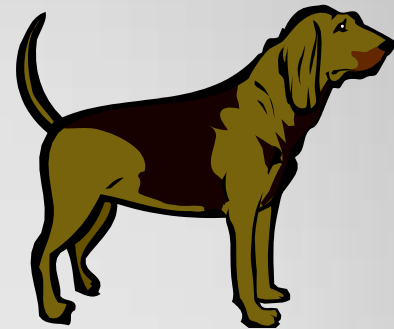
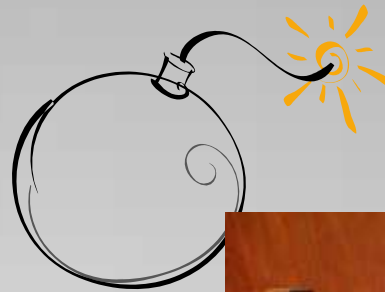
Executive Action



- Tracking, Monitoring and Identifying Opportunities
- Engaging Others in the Community
- Leading the Action Effort

Three Sustained Advocacy Techniques

- What are your proactive “asks”?
- What are your “reactive” asks?
- What opportunities will you have to provide input?
- Where (and who) are the threats?



Tracking, Monitoring and Identifying Opportunities (and Threats!)

Usual Suspects...

- Who already likes you?
 - Friends, staff, trustees, funders
- Who already uses your services?
 - Patrons
- Who directly benefits?
 - Schools, businesses, tourism bureaus

Engaging Others

... and Moving Beyond

- Who will benefit indirectly?
- Who are your polar opposites? Is there a reason they might benefit?
- Don't "Network", "Netplay"
- Most important: Civility, even with those who are annoying

- Who should take what action when?
- How will they know how to do it?
- What resources will they have?
- Becoming both a thought and action leader



Leading the Action Effort

- ❑ Watch Schoolhouse Rock
- ❑ Find my state legislative webpages
- ❑ Learn the procedure for considering and passing bills
- ❑ Figure out which committees are relevant
- ❑ Use other states as examples
- ❑ Find and research the players
- ❑ Create coalitions based on my audience
- ❑ Develop a plan of action for myself as well as others
- ❑ Find both threats and opportunities
- ❑ Review ALA Washington Office resources!

What Will You Do Next? The Checklist