Understanding the Legislative Process

Becoming more involved and effective at influencing government in Arizona
Today’s Speakers

Chip Davis, Supervisor, District 3, Yavapai County

René Guillen Jr., Policy Advisor, Government and Transportation, Office of Governor Doug Ducey

Matt Lore, Communication and Education Director, League of Arizona Cities and Towns

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Clarkdale
Overview

• A look at the different levels of government in Arizona
• Getting involved and being more effective at influencing:
  • municipal level
  • County level
  • state level
• Questions and discussion with panelists
State Government

- State Government has authority over all cities and counties
- Subject to the limits of the U.S. Constitution and State Constitution
- 3 Branches
County Government

15 Counties in Arizona

- Administrative arm of the state
- County supervisors govern
- Many independently elected county officers: assessor, attorney, treasurer, sheriff, etc.
Cities and Towns

91 Incorporated Cities and Towns in Arizona

- Voluntary units of local government
- Deliverer of basic services
- Council-Manager form of government
How Does an “area” become a city or town?

Two legal requirements for incorporation:
1. Must have a population of 1500 people
2. Must be a “community” as defined in state law
School Districts

217 School Districts in Arizona

Special Districts

Over 1,000 Special Districts in Arizona
The elections process

• Representative Government
• Initiative
• Referendum
• Recall
Getting Involved in Your City or Town

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Clarkdale
Getting Involved in Your County

Chip Davis, Supervisor, District 3, Yavapai County
Getting Involved at the State Level

René Guillen Jr., Policy Advisor, Government and Transportation, Office of Governor Doug Ducey
The Legislature

- The State of Arizona has 30 legislative districts.
  - There are 2 state representatives and 1 state senator from each district

- State senators and representatives are elected every two years, subject to term limitations

- The legislative session begins the second Monday in January each year and is supposed to last 100 days (usually more)

- There are 5,000 interest groups represented by 1,000 registered lobbyists working on 1,500 bills each session
The Arizona Legislature, 52nd Legislature, First Regular Session has adjourned Sine Die on April 3, 2015 at 3:37 A.M.

Welcome to the Arizona State Legislature. Welcome to the official web site of the Arizona State Legislature. Use this web site as a tool to track pending legislation, plus locate and contact individual legislators, and stay up-to-date on current issues. For an overview of the legislative process in Arizona, please feel free to explore our web site. For today's Legislative schedule, please view the ALIS Today calendar. To see a list of events that are happening this month, please view the Capitol Events.

The Arizona State Legislature is a bicameral body with 30 members in the Senate and 60 members in the House of Representatives. Each district is served by one Senator and two House members.

Click To See The Members

View Live and Archived Legislative Committee Hearings, Meetings, Floor Actions and Special Events.

→ Click to visit our Streaming Video Archive
The Legislature – AZLEG.GOV
Where do bills come from?

- General public, local governments, state agencies, businesses, interest groups
- Special reports, audits
- Ideas from previous legislative sessions
First/Second Reading & Committee Introduction

- Slightly different rules for House and Senate
  - House: First reading and committee referral on same day
  - Senate: First reading, wait one day and then Second reading and committee referral

- Senate President & House Speaker have the discretion to create whatever committees they choose
Role of Committees

- Bills can be assigned to numerous committees:
  - Sometimes it affects several different areas
    (i.e., Cities & Transportation)
  - Sometimes it is done to stall a bill, and prevent its passage

- Each committee has an analyst that is knowledgeable in that subject area and is responsible for summarizing the bill.
Role of Committee Chair

- Committee chair is responsible for scheduling each bill for a hearing.

- Because the committee chair does not have to schedule the bill at all, the committee chair is a powerful role.

- Many bills are never heard in committee and are essentially “dead” for the rest of the session.
Committee Hearing

- Opportunity for legislators to hear public comment

- Amendments must be formally moved to be added on the bill - Strike-everythings – these amendments known also as “Strikers” are amendments that erase the contents of the bill and propose an entirely new bill

- Committee must formally have a roll call vote on legislation
Rules, Caucus and COW

- Every bill is assigned to the Committee on Rules – this committee works with the Rules attorney to ensure that the bill is Constitutional and in proper form.
- Caucus – forum for members of same party to discuss legislation and strategy for floor debate, receive help from partisan staff.
- Committee of the Whole (COW) is when the entire Senate or House convenes as a committee.
- Opportunity for debate – among members only.
- Committee amendments and COW (floor) amendments are formally added to the bill.
Passage of Bills

- To pass during Third Reading, bill must receive either 16 votes in the Senate or 31 votes in the House, with some exceptions
  - Prop 105
  - Prop 108
  - Emergency Clause
After bill passes House/Senate

- Bills have to be heard in both chambers – after bill passes House or Senate, it must go to opposite chamber.

- There are certain dates by which all House bills must pass the House and all Senate bills must pass the Senate. If the bill does not meet these deadlines, it is essentially “dead” (monitor for strikers).
Process of Bill in the Opposite Chamber

- Same as in the other chamber: Bill is First & Second Read and assigned to committee(s)

- Bill must pass committee(s), Rules Committee, Caucus, COW and Third Read

- Bills can be further amended in the opposite chamber, or completely changed by a strike-everything amendment
Governor’s Actions

- After a bill reaches the Governor’s desk, the Governor can do the following:
  1. Sign the bill
  2. Veto the bill and return it to the House or Senate with a statement of why it was vetoed (Legislature can override with a two-thirds vote of each chamber)
  3. Allow the bill to become law without his signature – this means that no action is taken on the bill and after 5 days (10 if the Legislature has adjourned), it becomes law
Engage

Contact the Governor’s Office in the way that’s most convenient for you: by phone, email or social media.

STATE CAPITOL
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Directions

EMAIL
Send your questions and comments to Governor Ducey

TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Phoenix: 602.542.4531
Tucson: 520.628.6580

SUBSCRIBE, FOLLOW, AND INTERACT
facebook.com/dougducey
twitter.com/dougducey
Governor’s YouTube Channel
instagram.com/dougducey

REQUESTS
Submit an Event Request
Request a Meeting with the Governor
Submit a Proclamation Request
Letters of Greeting & Certificates
How To Impact Legislation

- Count Your Votes
- Establish Relationships With Legislators
- Become A Resource
- Keeping In Contact
- Meeting Do’s and Don’ts
- Committee Testimony
How To Impact Legislation

- Meeting Do’s and Don’ts
  - Honey over Vinegar
  - Deference

- Committee Testimony
  - Go through the chair
  - Quit while you’re ahead
  - Acknowledge who you are and how you’re seen
  - Know what you’re asking for
Questions?