



Be an Effective Advocate & Get Your Issues Passed Into Law

What steps can you take?



OVERVIEW

- Legislative Process
- Legislative Alert
- Advocating for issues that are important to you
- Help Your Representative Write Your Bill Before the Next Session
- Voter Registration
- Candidate and Issue Campaigns



The WA State Legislature

- ▶ The WA State Legislature is made up of two houses – the Senate and the House
- ▶ There are 49 legislative districts with each district having 2 Representatives and 1 Senator
- ▶ Legislative Cycle is 2 years long – Regular Sessions
 - ▶ Long Session is in odd numbered years and is 105 days long
 - ▶ Short Session is in even numbered years and is 60 days long
 - ▶ Each session begins on the in the 2nd Monday of January each year
- ▶ Extraordinary sessions are called by the Governor usually to address the budget, but they can only last a maximum of 30 days each.

2020 Legislative Schedule

- ▶ Monday – January 13: Legislative Session Began
- ▶ Friday – February 7: Cutoff Date for Bills to Pass Out of Policy Committees
- ▶ Tuesday – February 11: Cutoff Date for Bills to Pass Out of Fiscal Committees
- ▶ Wednesday – February 19: Last day to consider (pass) bills in house of origin (5 p.m.)
- ▶ Friday – February 28: Cutoff Date for Opposite House Bills to Pass Out of Policy Committees
- ▶ Monday – March 2: Cutoff Date for Opposite House Bills to Pass Out of Fiscal Committees
- ▶ Friday – March 6: Last Day to Pass Opposite House Bills (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).
- ▶ Thursday – March 12: Last Day for the Regular Session

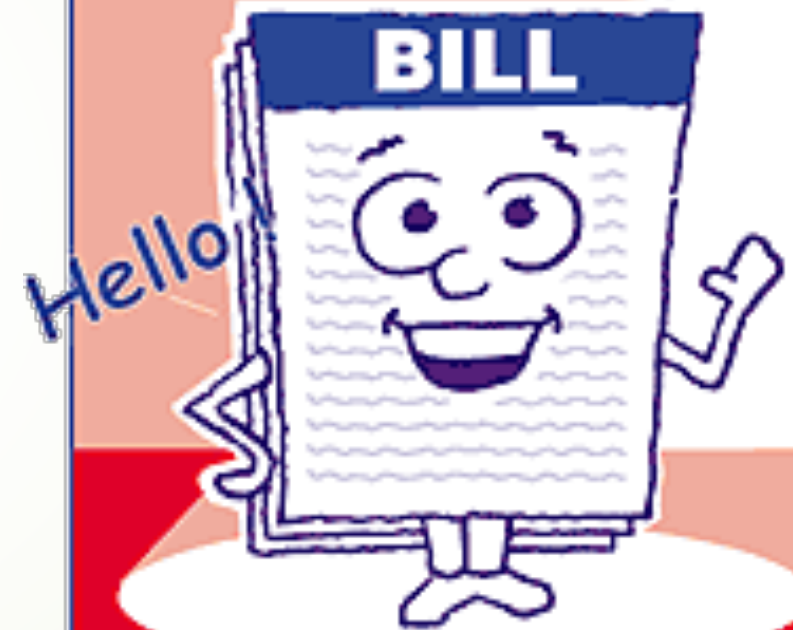


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HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

- ▶ A member drops the proposed bill into the “hopper” and a bill number is assigned.
- ▶ Signatures are gathered from sponsors

A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives.



Committee Hearings

- ▶ Once a bill has a number it is assigned to a committee
- ▶ Public Hearing may be scheduled
 - ▶ You can testify on behalf or against a bill. Public testimony is generally brief – 1 to 3 minutes per person.
 - ▶ You can sign in for or against a bill and not testify at the hearing as well.
- ▶ Executive Session may be scheduled
 - ▶ The committee now debates the bill and can amend, pass, reject, or take no action on the bill.
- ▶ IF BILL HAS FISCAL IMPACT – it then goes to a Fiscal Committee to be heard in a public hearing and executive session before consideration by the full House/Senate



Rules Committee

- ▶ The committee report on the passed bill is read in open session of the House or Senate, and the bill is then referred to the Rules Committee.
- ▶ The first step in the Rules Committee process is called Rules Review in the House and Rules White in the Senate (the report that lists the bills in this step in the Senate is printed on white paper). Rules Committee members review the bills and decide whether or not to move them on to the next step.

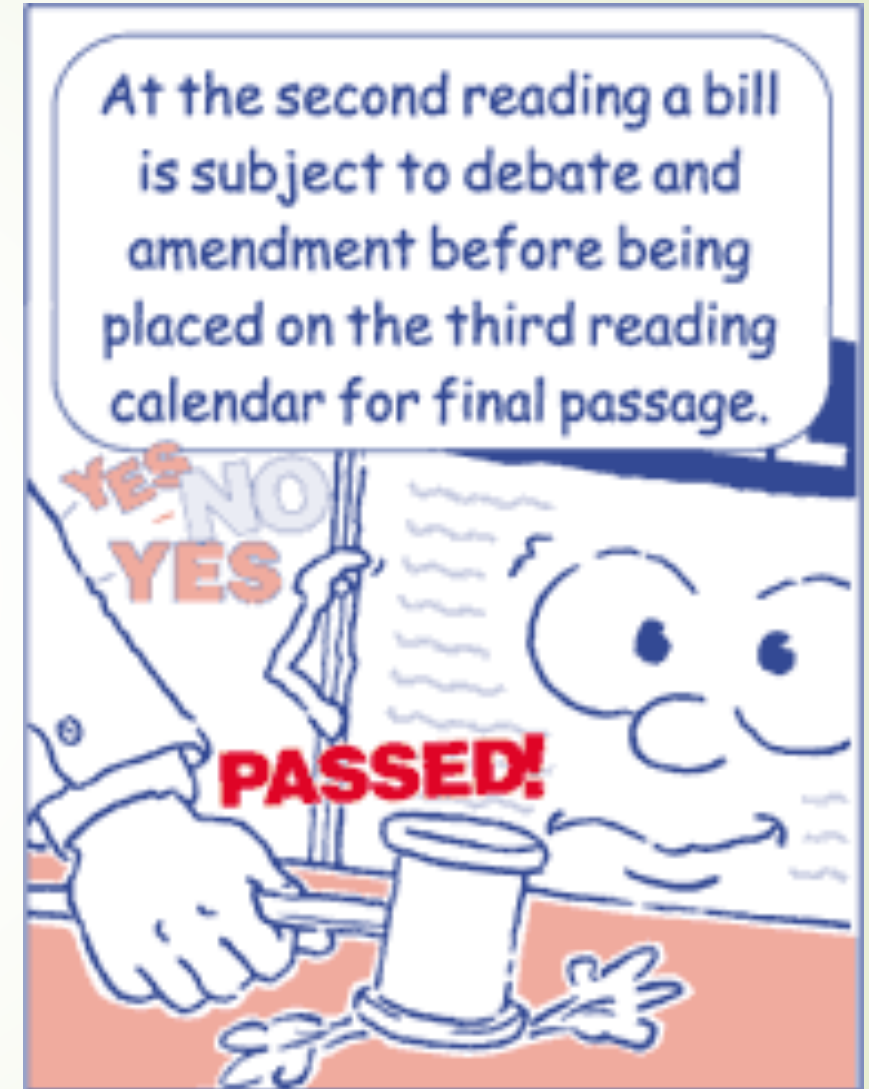
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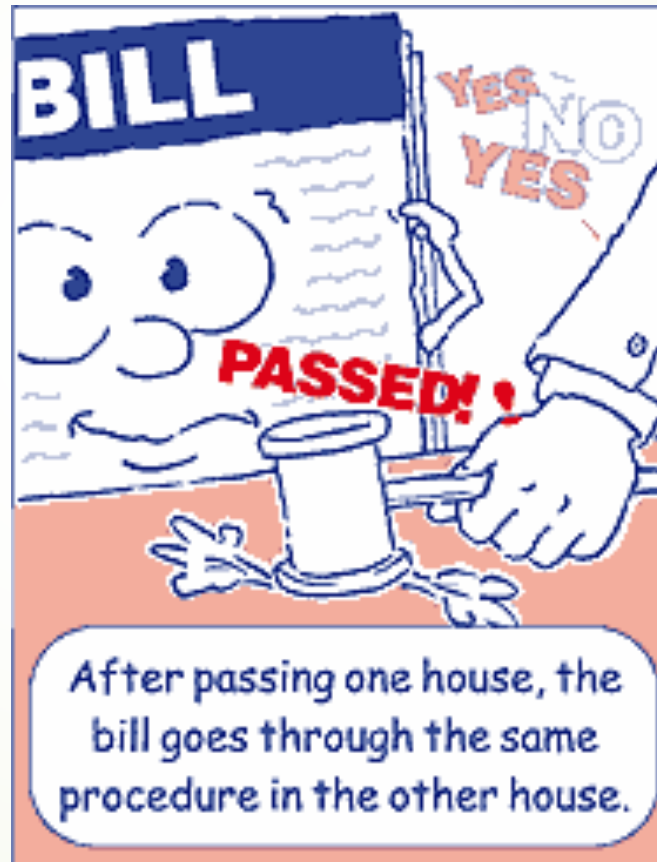
The Rules Committee can either place the bill on the second reading of the calendar for debate before the entire body, or take no action.

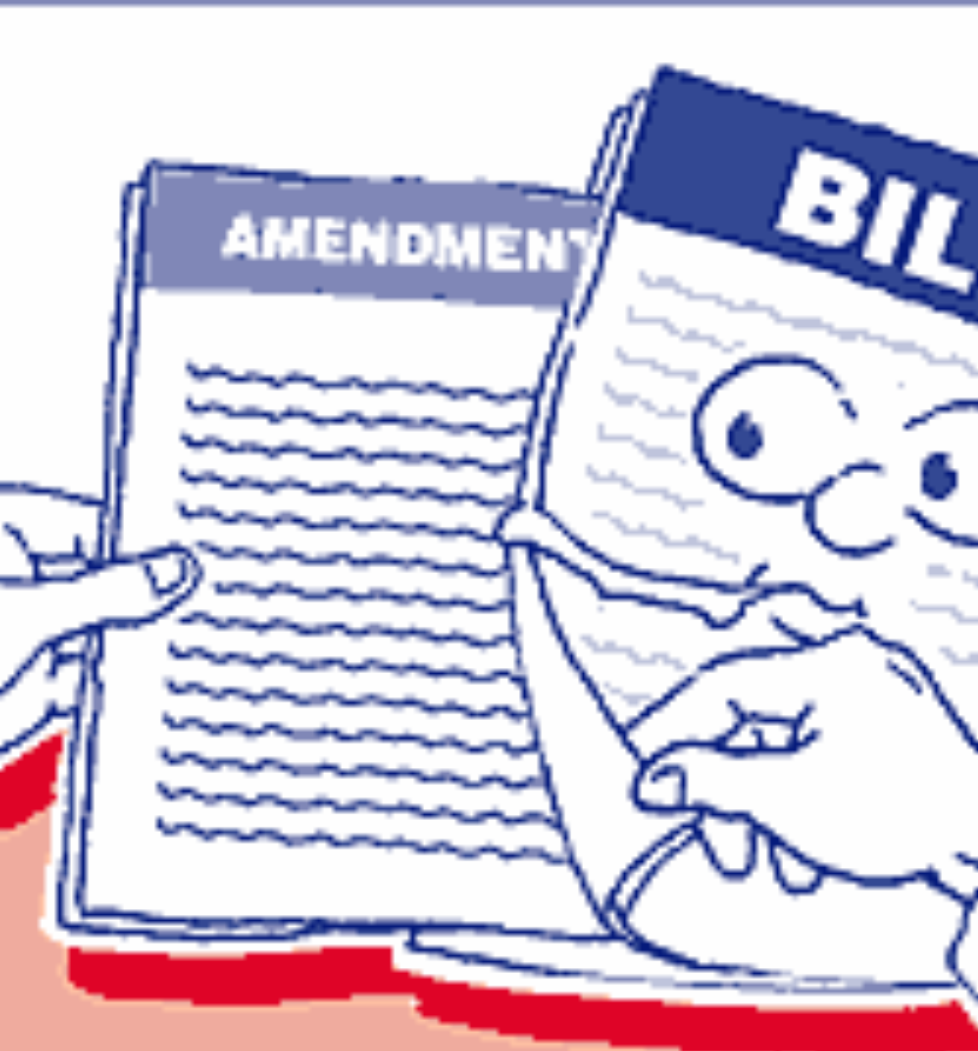
Rules Committee – 2nd Reading and Passage

- ▶ A bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.
- ▶ Third reading is where the roll call vote on final passage is taken. If the bill finally passes, it continues in the process. If the bill fails on final passage, it goes no further. Under certain circumstances, the chamber may decide to reconsider the vote that was taken; in that case, the chamber has twenty-four hours to make a motion to reconsider the bill.



Now On to the 2nd House – And Repeat the Process





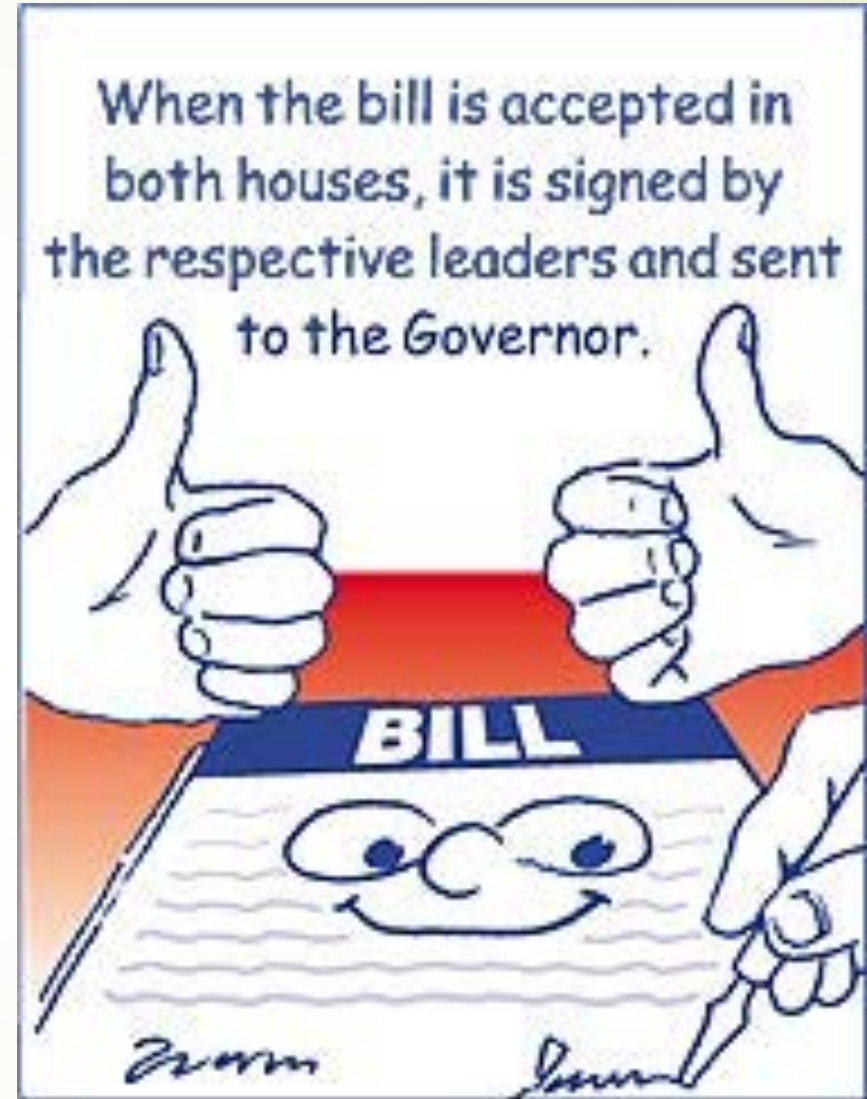
If amendments are made
in one house, the other
house must concur.

Concurrence

- If the bill is amended by the 2nd house, the 1st house has to decide if it will concur with the amendments or not. Leadership decides which bills will be discussed and placed on the concurrence calendar. If the first house concurs with the amendments, the bill has passed the legislature
- If the first house disagrees, it can ask the second house to recede from its amendments. If the 2nd house recedes, the bill has passed the legislature
- If the two houses cannot resolve their differences, a conference committee may be called. If the conference committee agrees on what is to be done, a conference committee report is made. Both houses would need to pass the conference committee report for the bill to become law.

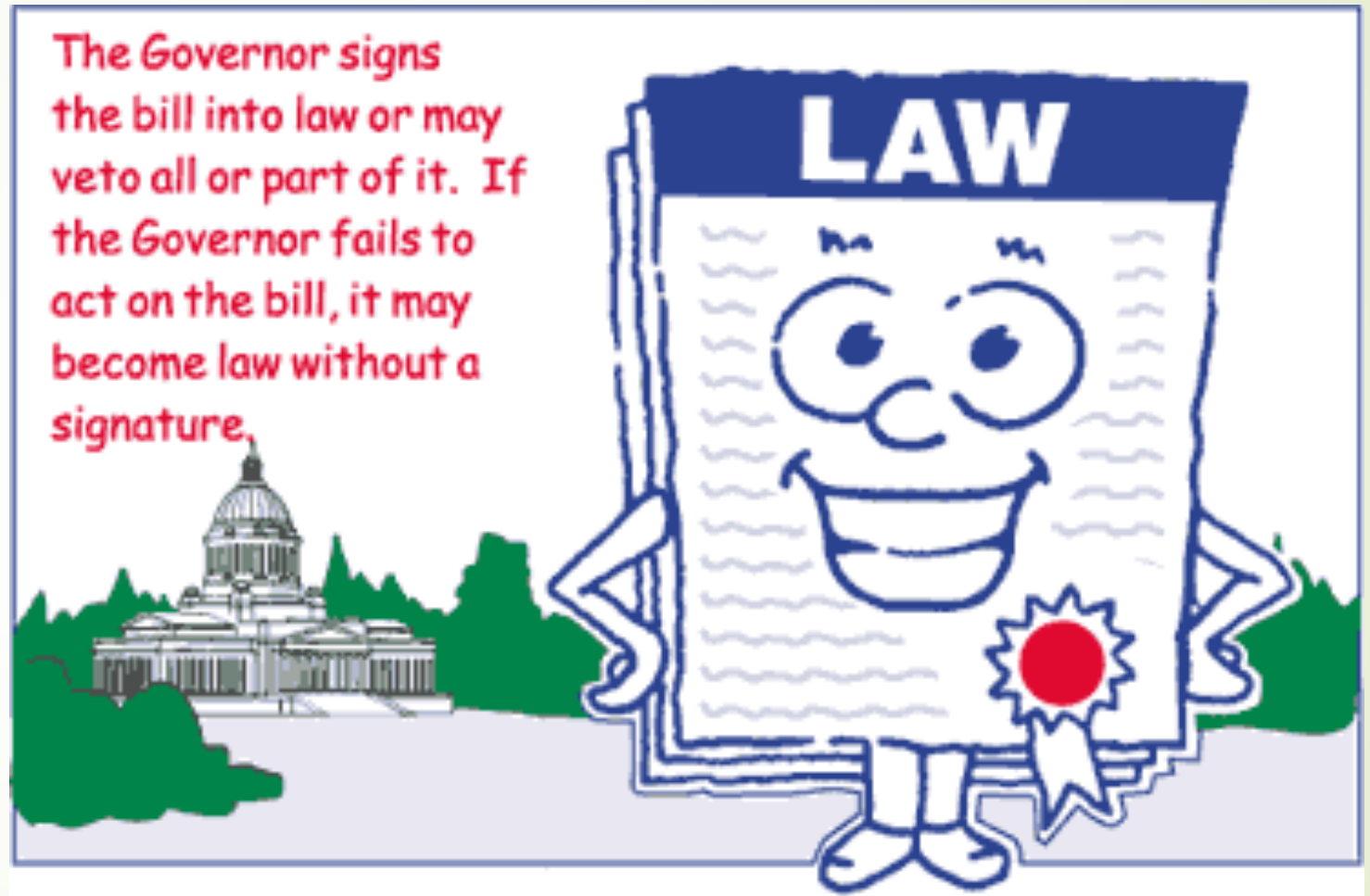
Enrollment

- A certificate proclaiming that it has passed is attached and, if necessary, the amendments from the second house or conference committee are incorporated into the body of the bill. The bill is signed by the Speaker of the House, the Chief Clerk of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Secretary of the Senate and is sent to the Governor for his or her action.



Governor Takes Action

- ▶ The Governor reviews the bill. The Governor may decide to sign it, veto part of it, or veto all of it.
- ▶ If the Governor vetoes part or all of it, the Legislature may vote to override the veto. (That happens rarely.)
- ▶ If the governor does not act on a bill after the allotted number of days, it is as if it was signed.
- ▶ From the Governor's desk, bills go to the Secretary of State who assigns a session law chapter number.



Legislative Alerts



**Top Action
for the Week**

**Listing of bills
that WA
State NOW is
tracking in
the areas of**

- Civil and Equal Rights
- Economic Equity and Support for Low Income Individuals and Families
- Reproductive Rights and Health Care
- Violence Against Women
- Budget & Revenue & other Governmental Procedure Bills

Sign up for WA State NOW legislative Alerts by sending an email to wa.state.now.leg.alerts@gmail.com with Subscribe in the Subject Line.



WA State National Organization for Women

Legislative Alert for February 2, 2020

The 2020 Legislative Session started on Monday, January 13, 2020 and is scheduled to end on Thursday, March 12, 2020. As this is a short session, bills will be moving rapidly through the session.

This Friday, February 7, 2020 is the first cutoff date. This is the last date that bills must pass out of committee except for those in the House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees.

February 11, 2020 is the last day for bills in the House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees to pass out of these committees.

February 19, 2020 is the last day of the session for bills to pass out of their house of origin or they are dead.

You can contact your legislators by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1 800-562-6000. You can also contact them by e-mail using this format: firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov. If you need to look up your legislators, use the following link to find them: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

Top Actions of the Week:

HB 2576 Concerning private detention facilities.

HB 2576 is in in the House Public Safety Committee where it is scheduled for a public hearing on Monday, February 3 at 1:30 and an executive session on Thursday, February 6 at 8 AM. This bill would ban any person, business, or state or local governmental entity from operating a private detention facility within the state or entering into agreements with any local or state government or private organization in any other state providing for the operation of a private detention facility.

Action: Contact your representative in the House Public Safety Committee and let them know you support a ban on private prisons as outlined in [HB 2576](#) and request that it pass out of committee with a YES vote.

If you can only do one thing, please contact your legislators to pass a ban on private detention facilities.

Sample Weekly Legislative Alerts sent out during
the legislative session



Legislative Alerts – Tracking of Each Bill

- Bill Number and Title
- Our Position on the bill
- Description
- Status
- Action

Pelvic Exam Consent

SB 5282 Requiring informed consent for pelvic exams.

SUPPORT

SB 5282 Prohibits a licensed health care provider from knowingly performing or authorizing a student practicing under their authority to perform a pelvic examination on a patient who is anesthetized or unconscious.

Status: SB 5282 passed out of the Senate on Friday, January 24 and is in the House Health Care and Wellness Committee where it is scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12 at 8 AM.

Action: Contact your representatives in the House Care and Wellness Committee and let them know that you support [SB 5282](#) and request that it be passed out of committee.

Advocating for issues that are important to you - Talk to and Meet with Your Representatives/Senators



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- ▶ There is power in numbers - Get involved in a political party or advocacy organization –
 - ▶ They have activities and speaking points to approach your representatives
- ▶ You can meet with your legislators as an individual or in small groups to speak about your issues
- ▶ Find your legislative district at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> which will provide you a link to a page listing contact information for each representative
- ▶ Scheduling is easy – Send an e-mail to Firstname.Lastname@leg.wa.gov or call the phone number listed on the district finder link above

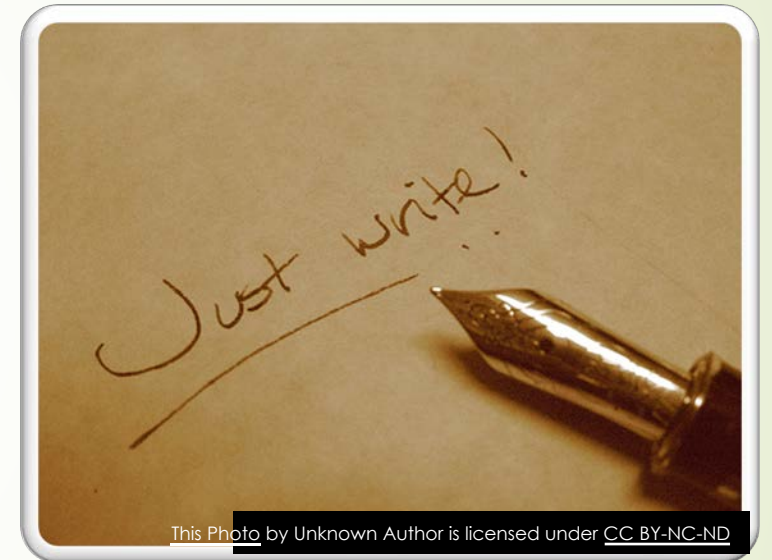
Advocating for issues that are important to you – Leave a message

- ▶ Call your legislators and leave a message on the Legislative Hotline – 1-800-562-6000 (M-F 8am - 8pm, Sat 9 am -1 pm)
- ▶ You can tell them to vote for or against a bill & leave a message why.



Advocating for issues that are important to you – write to your legislator

- ▶ Let your legislators know where you stand on an issue by writing to them –
 - ▶ Identify the bill,
 - ▶ Ask them to vote for or against a bill and why
 - ▶ Ask for a response
- ▶ E-mail using this format
firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov
- ▶ If you need to look up your legislator -
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>



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Help Your Representative Write Your Bill

- ▶ Writing a bill for your state legislature is one way to have a direct impact on government. Citizens or organizations can write bills but only a legislator can introduce
- ▶ Research previous legislation – laws in your state, other states & federal laws regarding similar issues
- ▶ Look up background information regarding your issue – statistics and individual stories
- ▶ Write your proposal - A bill is more likely to become a law when it is simple and proposes only a minor change or addition to current law, so keep it as uncomplicated as possible. Include an introduction or preface that provides a justification for the law. This justification should include relevant research.
- ▶ Contact several legislators starting with your own representative/senator who may be willing to sponsor your proposal. They may also have someone on staff who can assist you with the actual language of the bill.
 - ▶ Source: *How To Propose a Law* www.LegalBegal.com

Voter Registration



- ▶ In 2019, WA State Voter Registration Law was changed expanding who and when people can register to vote
 - ▶ 16 and 17-year-old individuals can register as part of the future voter Program
 - ▶ A person who signs up to register to vote may not vote until reaching eighteen years of age,
 - ▶ Eight days before a primary, special election, or general election – Voter registration application must be received for mail in and electronic voter registration
 - ▶ Same day voter registration - Register in person at the county auditor's office, the division of elections if in a separate city from the county auditor's office, a voting center, or other location designated by the county auditor in his or her county of residence no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day

You can register people to vote!



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- ▶ Participate or organize a voter registration drive!
 - ▶ Order voter registration forms (up to 250 forms) from the Secretary of State at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/register-mail.aspx>
 - ▶ Select a site (such as grocery/shopping areas, community gatherings, or your neighborhood)
 - ▶ Voter registration can be you and your friends walking an area with a clipboard or setting up a table with a sign that says, "Register to Vote Here!"
 - ▶ You must register anyone who wants to do so.
 - ▶ Voter registration forms can be used for both new voters, moves, and name changes.

Other Ways to Register to Vote



- ▶ Use your social media accounts and encourage people to get registered
 - ▶ Electronic voter registration: Share <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> with your family and friends to register, update registration, and to learn what is on their ballots.
 - ▶ To use the electronic voter registration form the person must have a current Washington State driver's license, permit or ID card. If not, the person can still register via mail or in person
 - ▶ Mail in voter registration: Share <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx> to print out a voter registration form in whatever language the person speaks
 - ▶ In person registration at the person's local county auditor/elections department by 8 PM on election day. A list of offices is available at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors/#>



To Work on Issue or Candidate Campaigns

Campaigns are always looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks and activities.

- Voter registration drives
- Canvassing (knocking on doors and talking to voters about their issues)
- Data entry
- Phone banking
- Text banking
- House parties – invite your friends over to meet the candidate and have fun
- GOTV – Get Out the Vote – encouraging people to turn in their ballots



Questions?