

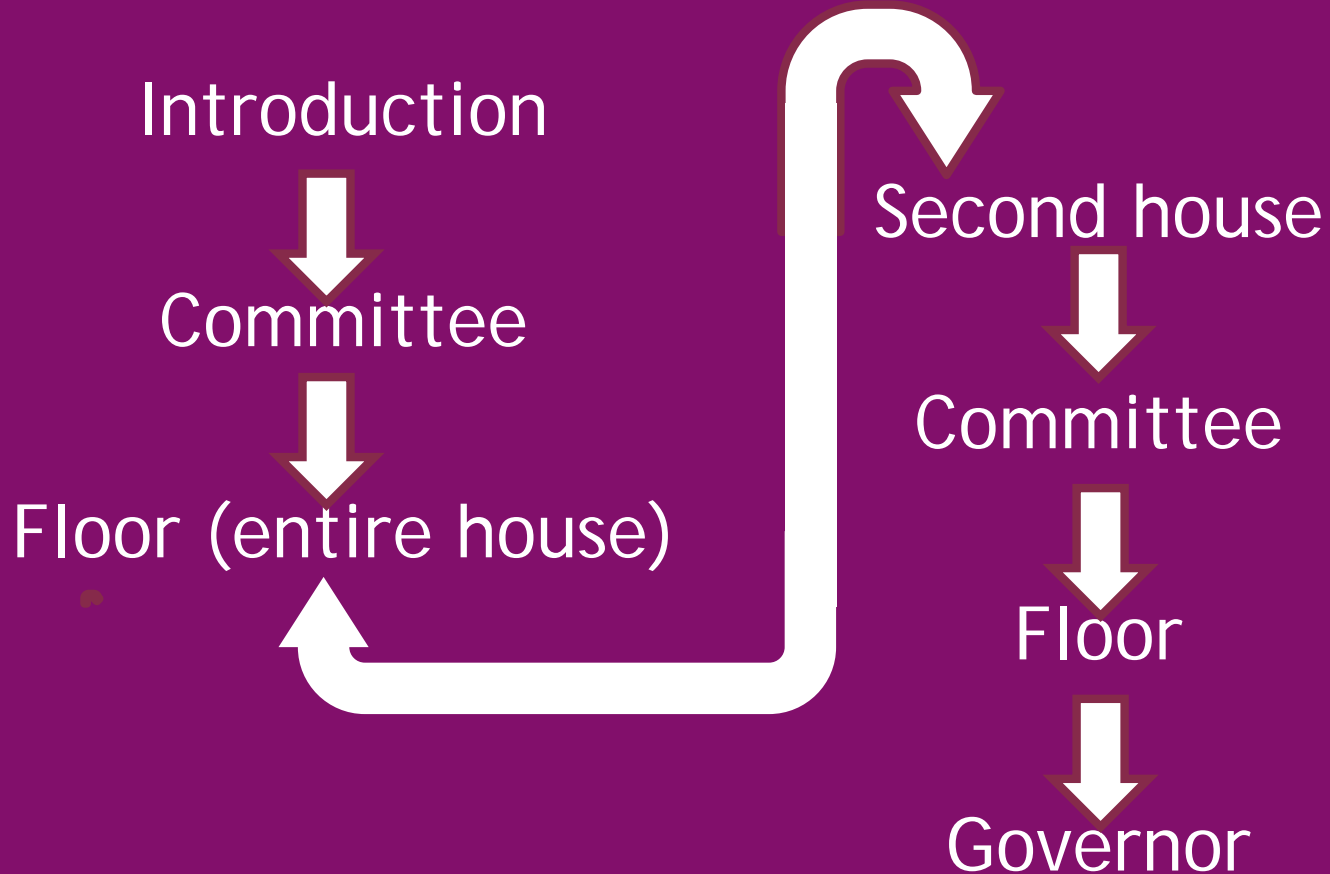
HOW TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATORS

Kathy Sakahara

League of Women Voters of Washington

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

IN THEORY



Know

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

IN REALITY

- Assigned to committee
 - Public hearing ?
 - Amendments ?
 - Striker-complete replacement ?
 - Committee vote ?
 - Referred to financial committee
 - Approved by financial committee ?
 - Sent to Rules Comm.
 - Approved by Rules ?
 - Sent to floor
- ? Means 'Maybe'

Committee

CITIZEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCE

- Initiated by
- Drafted
- Reviewed
- **Cosponsors recruited**
- Introduced
- Assigned to committee
- Public hearing
- Amendments
- **Striker-complete replacement**
- **Committee vote**
- Referred to financial committee
- **Approved by financial committee**
- Sent to Rules
- Approved by Rules
- Sent to floor
- On floor: amendments
- Almost always passes
- Rinse and Repeat
- Signed by Governor

Act

CITIZEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCE

- Initiated by
- Drafted
- Reviewed
- Cosponsors recruited
- Introduced
- Assigned to committee
- Public hearing
- Amendments
- Stricken or replaced
- Committee vote
- Referred to financial committee
- Approved by financial committee
- Sent to Rules
- Approved by Rules
- Sent to floor
- On floor (amendments)
- Almost always passes
- Rinse and Repeat
- Signed by Governor

**PARTY
LEADERSHIP**

PARTY CAUCUS

ACT

LOBBYIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCE

- ◉ Drafted
- ◉ Reviewed
- ◉ Cosponsors recruited
- ◉ Introduced
- ◉ Assigned to committee
- ◉ Public hearing ?
- ◉ Amendments ?
- ◉ Striker-complete replacement ?
- ◉ Committee vote ?
- ◉ Referred to financial committee
- ◉ Approved by financial committee ?
- ◉ Sent to rules
- ◉ Sent to floor ?
- ◉ On floor: amendments ?
- ◉ Almost always passes
- ◉ Rinse and Repeat
- ◉ Sent to Governor-Sign ?

Everywhere

EXPLORE THE LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE

- leg.wa.gov
 - Bill information
 - Following a bill/many bills
 - Committees
 - Following a committee, other info
- <http://Bit.ly/Leaguelinks>

Learn

CONNECTING ELECTED OFFICIALS

- ◉ Relationship With Legislator
- ◉ Relationship With Aides
- ◉ Relationship With Allies

Connect

LEARNING ABOUT ELECTED OFFICIALS

- ◉ Priorities
- ◉ Committees serving on, leading
- ◉ Bills introduced
- ◉ Bills passed
- ◉ Years in legislature
- ◉ Other info from homepage
- ◉ Other info from insiders

Research

COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

When?

- During session
- Between sessions
- During campaign
- When you can help

Communicate

INFLUENCING ELECTED OFFICIALS

- ◉ Have a specific ask
- ◉ Do some homework, but not a lot.
- ◉ Do NOT be intimidated.
- ◉ Provide a 'leave behind'.

Prepare

INFLUENCING ELECTED OFFICIALS

- ◉ Frame the conversation
- ◉ Tell a story, not just data
- ◉ Talk values, not policy
- ◉ Use benefit language
- ◉ Listen to their language
- ◉ Ask for a commitment

Influence

MAXIMIZE YOUR INFLUENCE

- ◉ Find your passion
- ◉ Know legislators and aides
- ◉ Follow key legislation
- ◉ Follow key committees
- ◉ Amplify your voice
- ◉ Work with a group
- ◉ LWVWA Lobby Team

Influence

LOBBYIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCE

- Drafted
- Reviewed
- Cosponsors recruited
- Introduced
- Assigned to committee
- Public hearing ?
- Amendments ?
- Striker-complete replacement ?
- Committee vote ?
- Referred to financial committee
- Approved by financial committee ?
- Sent to rules
- Sent to floor ?
- On floor: amendments ?
- Almost always passes
- Rinse and Repeat
- Sent to Governor-Sign ?

LWVWA LOBBY TEAM

- ◉ Reputation & Credibility
- ◉ Always based on year+ study
- ◉ Broad issues/Priorities
- ◉ Citizen lobbyists
- ◉ Advice from contract lobbyists
- ◉ Long term relationships
- ◉ Weekly newsletter
- ◉ Current webpages for each issue with list of bills and status

Join us



You might wonder
if it's worth it.

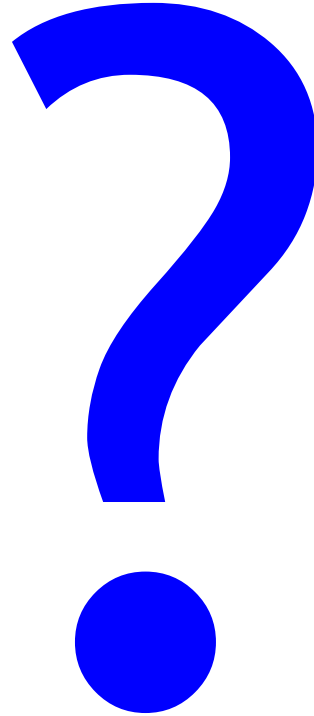
Look around
to your friends,
your families,
your communities.

Yes. So much
yes.

-Nina Flores, YES! Magazine 11/24/2016

Act

TO DO



THE LEGISLATURE

49 districts, 1 Senator, 2 Representatives each
Total: 49 senators, 98 Representatives

Committees

- 35 standing committees

- Chaired by majority party

- Majority from majority party

Leadership

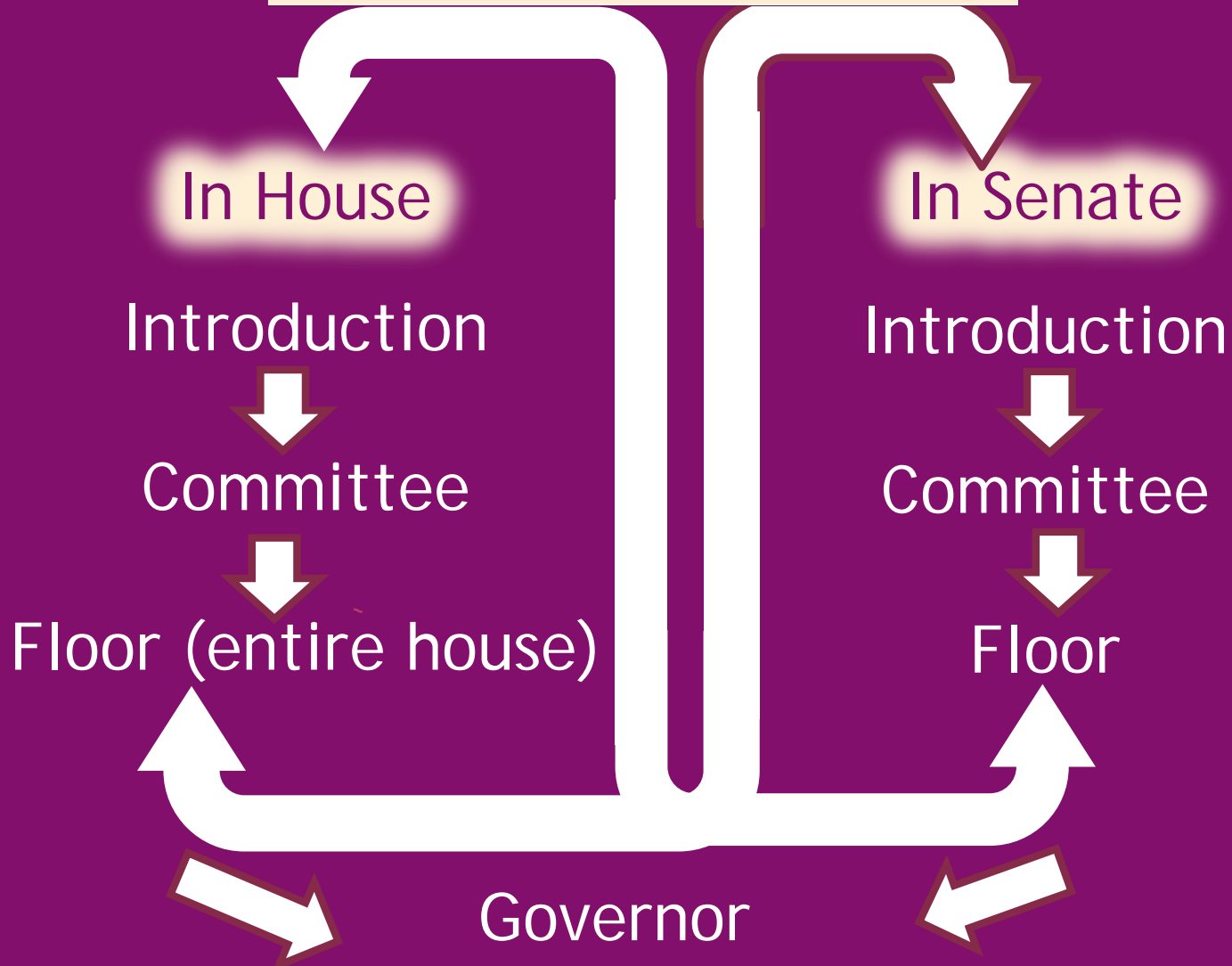
- Determines floor schedule

- Much more!

Know

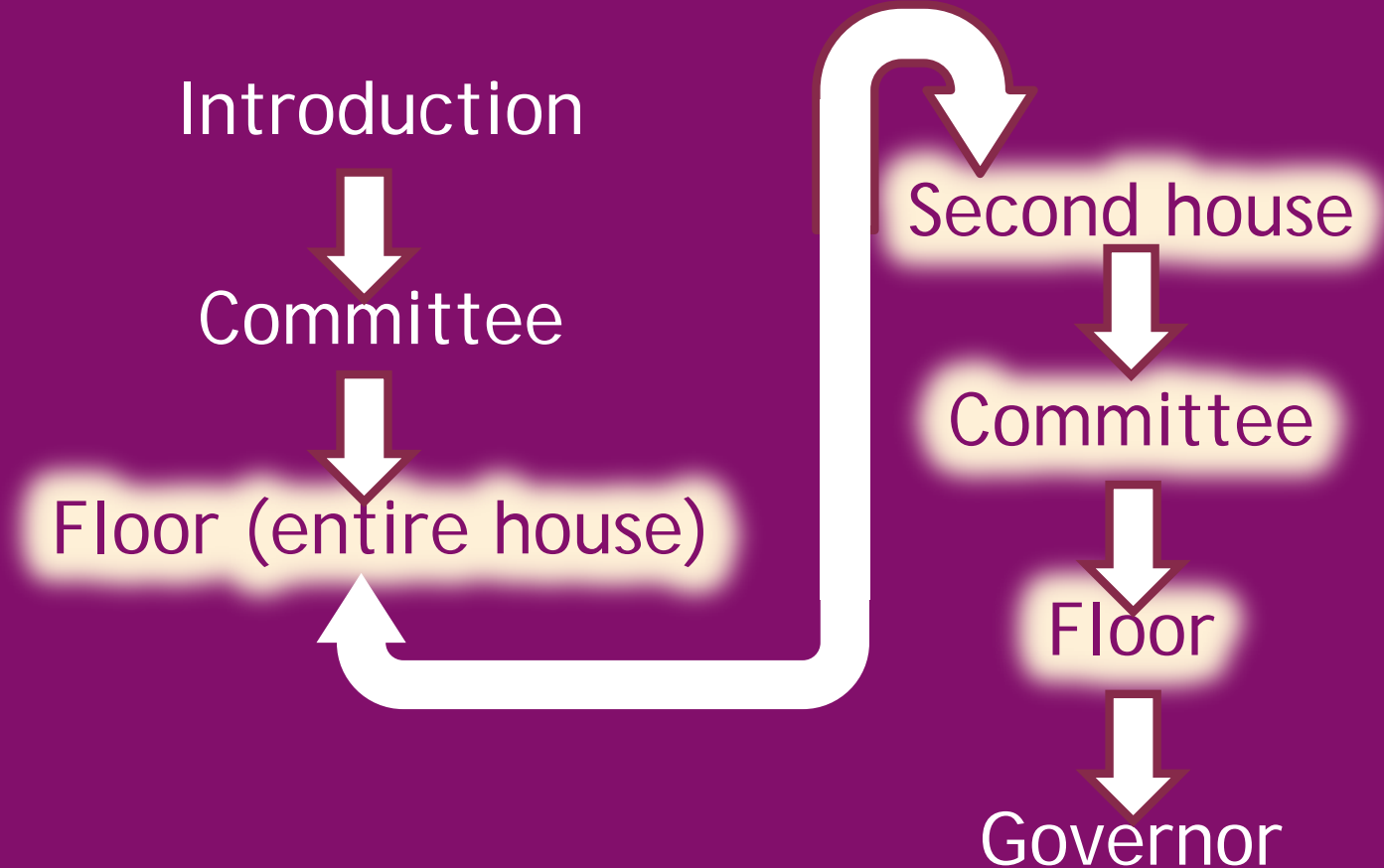
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

COMPANION BILLS



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

IN THEORY



Rinse & Repeat

LWVWA RESOURCES

WA Advocacy Links

[Bit.ly/LeagueLinks](https://bit.ly/LeagueLinks)

- [LWVWA Action Page](#)
- [LWVWA Issue Page](#)
- [Legislative newsletter - sign up](#)

Learn

INFLUENCING ELECTED OFFICIALS



NO

YES

Influence

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Web: lwwa.org

Facebook: facebook.com/lwwa

Contact info for Kathy Sakahara

ksakahara@lwwa.org

206-261-7797

We're here to help

THE LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Contact Your Legislators
Comment on a Bill
Come to the Legislature

Find

Laws & Rules
Your District & Legislators
Bills
Member Information /
Rosters
Committee Meeting
Schedules & Agendas
Audio & Video on TVW

THE LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE

About the Legislature

House

Senate

Committees

Legislative Agencies

Legislative Information
Center

Track Legislation

Track Bills

Email Updates
(GovDelivery)

RSS Feeds

Web Services

COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

How?

Email

Call their office

Meet

In office

Invite to speak to a group

Coffee

Town Halls

Get to know aides

Communicate

LIKELY CUT-OFF DATES FOR 2018

First Day of Session: January 8

- Deadline to pass bills out of:

Policy committee	February 2
Fiscal committees	February 6
House of origin	February 14
Policy committee	February 23
Fiscal committees	February 26
Opposite house, except budgets	March 1
End of regular session	March 7