

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS FROM A SURVEYORS PROSPECTIVE

2018 MSPS Conference, February 21, 2018

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I. Introduction

- A. presentation about the legislative process
- B. will make it non-partisan
- C. breaks every 20 minutes for 10 minute discussion

II. The Legislature

- A. creates laws
- B. Two types of laws(Bills) and two types of committees
 - Appropriations
 - provides for state spending
 - one year law
 - raid of remon. fund (restricted fund)
 - Policy

III. The Legislative Process

- A. how does the legislative process start
 - “with an idea” and request to legislator
 - from citizen, constituent, legislator, lobbyist
 - no new ideas
- B. legislator agrees to work on bill draft
 - work groups
 - who is invited; stake holders
 - flush out problems
- C. legislator requests a bill draft from LSB(Leg. Serv. Bur.), based on the idea
- D. LSB (non-partisan) is a building of lawyers and policy people who draft the bills
 - draft can take a week to 6 months
 - depends on reason it is being introduced, complexity, stake holders review, position of Legislator, (leadership gets priority), length of the line of requests ahead of yours
- E. legislator introduces the bill
 - hands it to the clerk of the House or clerk of the Senate
- F. bill is assigned to a committee
 - by the Speaker of House or Majority Leader in the Senate
 - this makes leadership powerful
 - some committees are graveyards for bills
 - some committees will like your bill
 - Legislator can influence committee referral

IV. An Appropriations Bill

- A. School Aid budget
 - copies of bill available
 - Committee I chaired for 4 years in the Senate
 - bill analysis
 - discussion

V. A Policy Bill

- A. Surveyors Bill
 - Copies of Surveyors Bill available
 - bill analysis

VI. Chairmanships and leadership

- A. Why are they powerful
 - Committee assignments
 - progress of bills in respective Chamber
 - Legislators can influence this

VII. How to influence the process

- A. understand the Legislators
 - vulnerable districts, safe Districts, district priorities, chairmanships, their successes, ect.
- B. Get to know your legislators
 - attend coffees
 - invite them to speak
 - invite them to lunch
 - attend local fundraisers
 - help on their campaigns
- C. Get to know the Legislator's staff
- D. Be Strategic
 - bill referrals to committee, use relationships, timing
 - coordinate and consolidate your efforts
- E. Move a bill – kill a bill

VIII. How do lobbyists do their job

- A. see above
- B. Everyone has a lobbyist
- C. most effective lobbyists
 - multi-client
 - Association lobbyists for groups with broad bases
 - Teachers, Police, Chamber of Commerce, NRA, Nurses, Hospitals
- D. Surveyors fit this model
 - Statewide Network
 - close to and understand local political power
 - can be very effective
 - step out of our comfort zone and build relationships
 - conscious effort, steadfast, continuous, and professional

IX. Persevere

- A. some bills take years
 - remember I said no new ideas