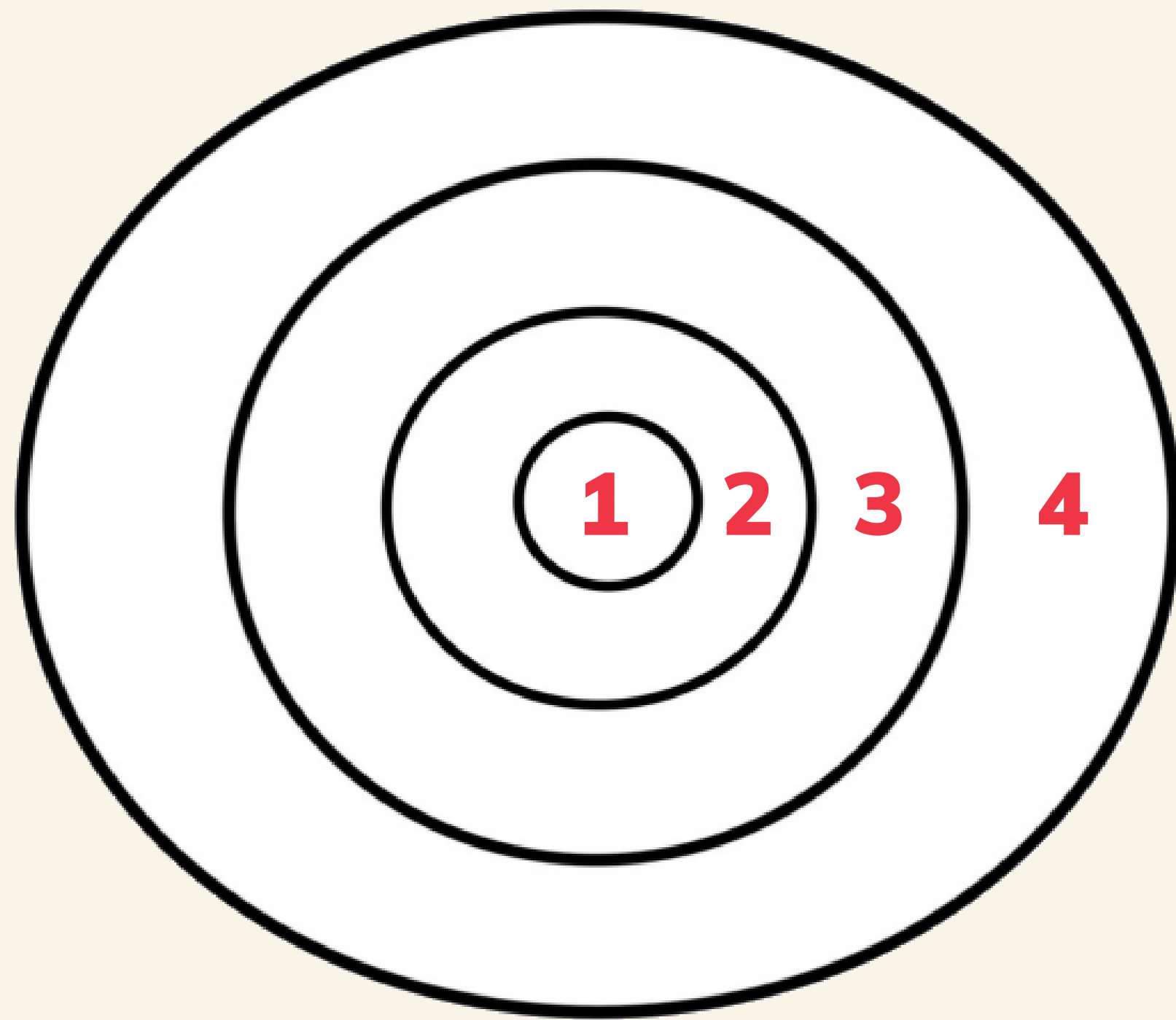




"IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME TO BE
AN ADVOCATE, NOW IS THAT TIME"

What are you passionate about?



- 1) Write your name in the center circle.
- 2) Write or draw the things you care about the most in the small circle close to your name.
- 3) In the third circle, write the things that are also important to you but might not be the MOST important.
- 4) In the outermost circle, write some things that are least important. You still care about them but they are not somewhat important or even MOST important.

These are your targets. All these things, although in varying degrees, are important. This is where you want to aim your passion. Go through these targets and try to answer these questions:

- How can these things be changed for the better?
- Where can I have the MOST impact?

Definitions



ACT

A bill enacted into law



ADVOCACY

The process of people making their voices heard on issues that affects their lives



AMENDMENT

An alteration to a bill



APPROPRIATION

Funds allocated for various departments of government



BILL

Draft of a proposed law presented to a legislative body



BIPARTISAN

Having an affiliation with both political parties



CAUCUS

An informal meeting of a group of members, most commonly based on political party affiliation



CONSTITUENT

A citizen residing within the district of a legislator

Definitions



LAW

A rule, or set of rules, which a particular country or community recognizes as rules



LEGISLATION

Another term for law(s)



LEGISLATOR

A member of a legislative body (lawmaker)



LEGISLATURE

The legislative body, country, or state



LOBBYING

Activities that directly support or oppose a specific piece of legislation



SPONSOR

The lawmaker who presents a bill for consideration

3 Branches of Government



EXECUTIVE

Carries out the laws

This branch is led by the president, who handles the business of the government. The president is able to sign or veto bills passed by Congress.



LEGISLATIVE

Makes the laws

The United States Congress is made up of two legislative bodies:

- The House of Representatives
- The Senate

A total of 535 members of Congress are elected by the People.



JUDICIAL

Interprets the laws

The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court in the nation. Nine members, or justices, look at current laws passed by Congress and checks if they violate the U.S. Constitution.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

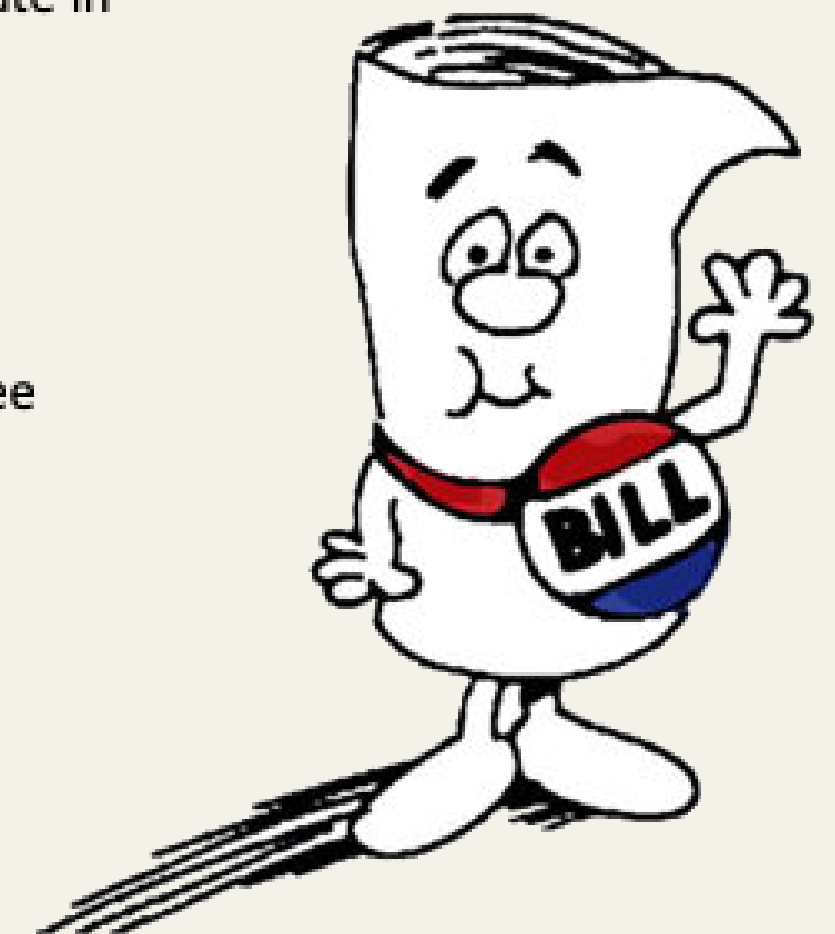
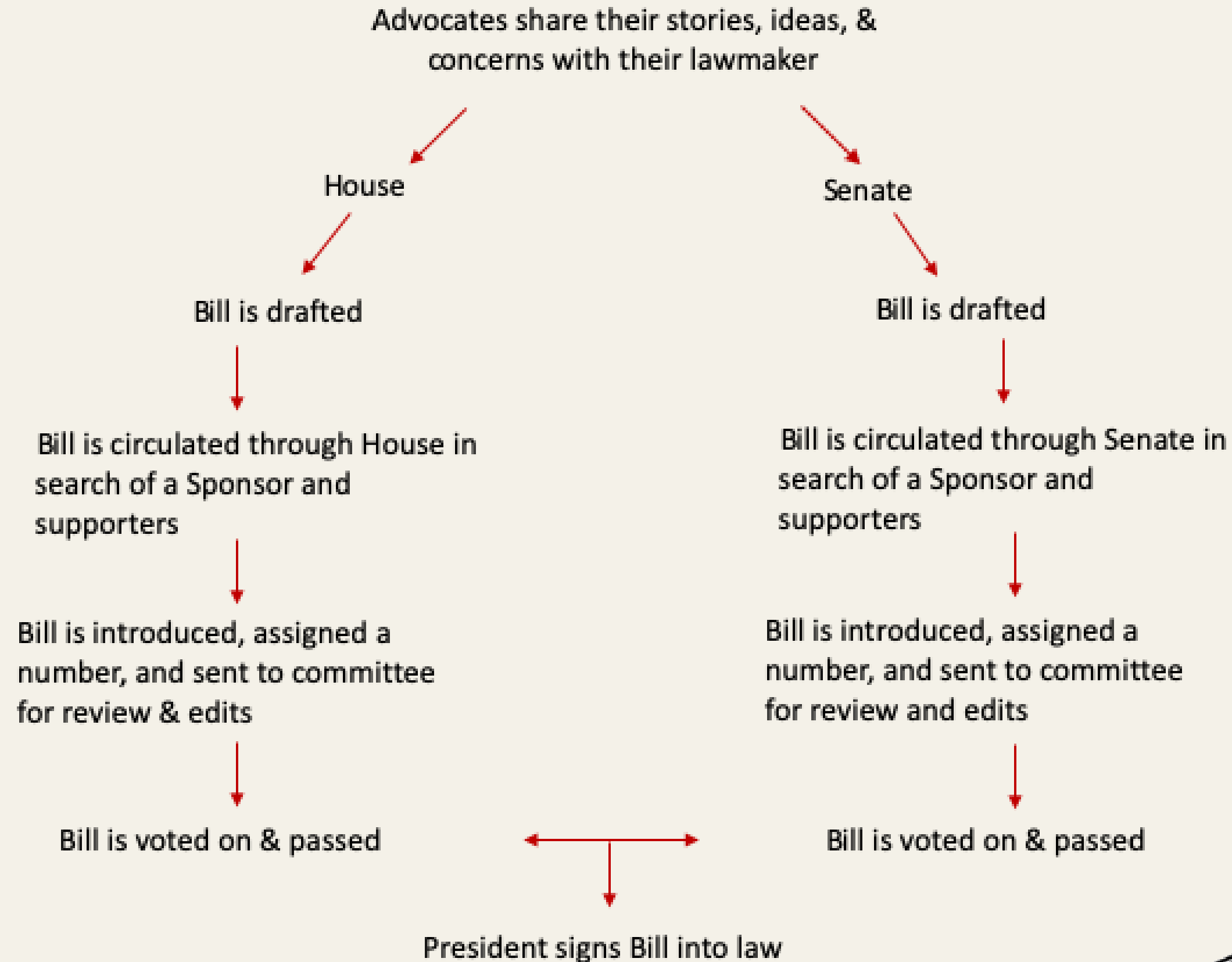
Resources:

<https://www.congress.gov/help/learn-about-the-legislative-process/how-our-laws-are-made>

<https://www.usa.gov/how-laws-are-made>

<https://kids-clerk.house.gov/grade-school/lesson.html?intID=17>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otbml6WlQP0>



WHO IS MY LAWMAKER?

RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY YOUR FEDERAL LAWMAKER

FEDERAL

The United States Congress is made up of two legislative (lawmaking) bodies - the House of Representatives and the Senate totaling 535 Members of Congress elected by the People.

SENATE:

- 100 Senators
- Every state has 2 Senators
- Serve a term of 6 years
- Must be at least 30 years old and a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- 435 Representatives (also commonly referred to as Congressmen/Congresswomen)
- The number of Representatives is based on a state's population
- Serve a term of 2 years
- Must be at least 25 years old and a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years

RESOURCES

To find your current Members of Congress visit www.congress.gov

Or call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121

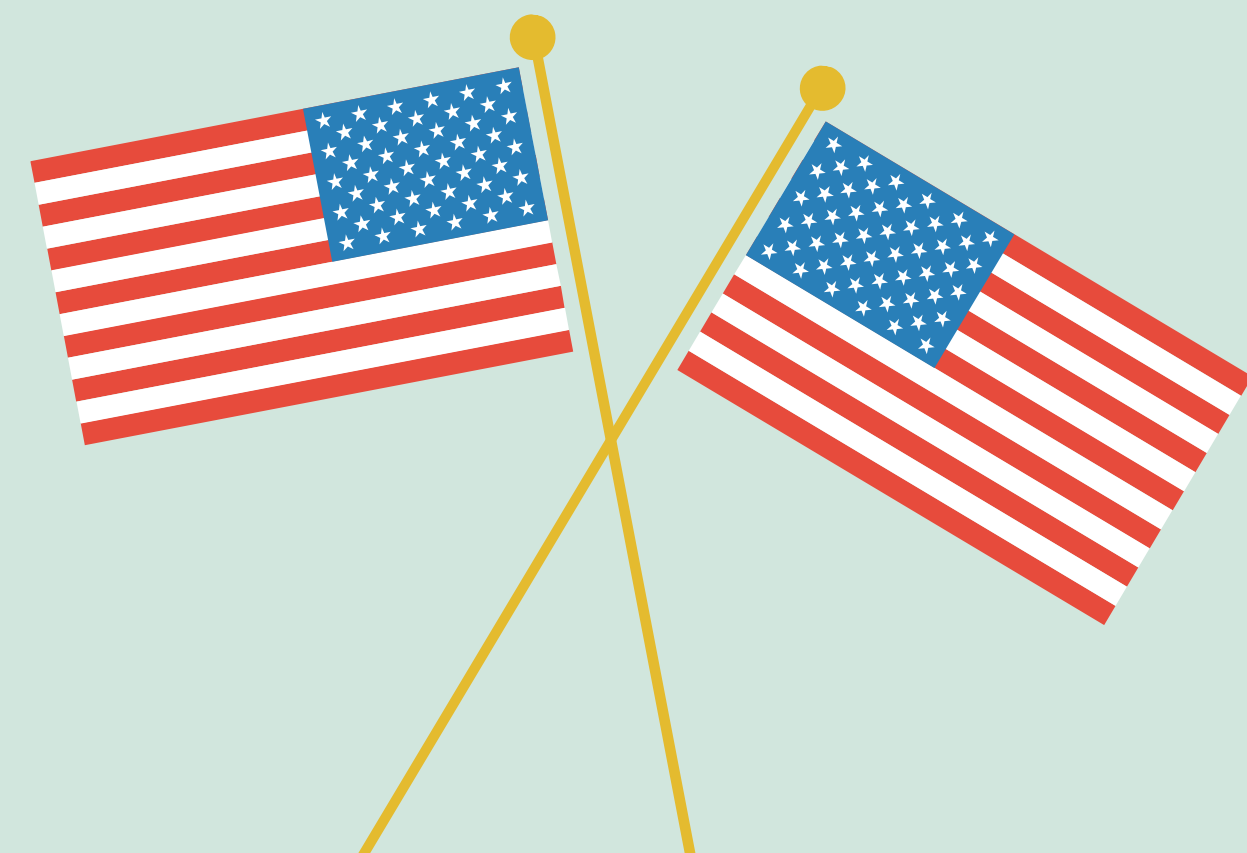
To learn more about the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Capitol visit

www.visitthecapitol.gov



WHO IS MY LAWMAKER?

RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY YOUR STATE LAWMAKER



STATE

Each of the 50 states have their own legislature made up of two legislative bodies- the Legislature (also referred to as the Assembly in many states) and the Senate. Eligibility to be a State Legislator and term limits vary from state to state.

RESOURCES

To learn more about your State elected officials visit:
<https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites>
<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/states.php>

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES WITH STATE CAPITALS



Tips for an Effective Lawmaker Meeting

REQUEST A MEETING IN WRITING (EMAIL OR LETTER)

- Remind them in your request that you are a constituent.
- Provide a very brief summary of what you would like to speak to them about.
- Allow several days for a reply then follow up with another email or phone call.
- Prior to your meeting, politely follow up confirming your appointment.

CONDUCT RESEARCH

- What might you have in common with the lawmaker? Do they have kids that go to the same school, play sports? Do they have a general interest in your cause?
- Do you have data to support your task? (Many organizations associated with your cause can provide you talking points.)
- How have they voted on previous legislations?
- What committees do they serve on?

Tips for an Effective Lawmaker Meeting

SHARE YOUR STORY

- Remind them that you are a constituent by stating your address.
- Thank them for their time.
- Sometimes the lawmaker might not be present and their aide will be representing them. Remember, they are the most direct line to the lawmakers so be just as thankful, thorough, and respectful.
- Remember what is to be **SAID** in a meeting. Above all else, **SHARE YOUR STORY** if you forget everything else! It is the most important element of your meeting.
- Bring a picture of other item representative of your story.
- Leave your items behind with the lawmaker or representative.
- Request a group photo and ask permission to post on socials.

Tips for an Effective Lawmaker Meeting

FOLLOW-UP AFTER YOUR MEETING

- Send a thank you note, preferably handwritten, for taking the meeting.
- If you left them with an action item, be sure to follow-up at a later date.
- Thank them on socials, tag them, and include the photo.

STORIES MATTER!!!



Lawmaker Meeting Cheat Sheet

WHAT'S TO BE SAID IN A MEETING REMINDER:



STORY



ASK



**INFORMATION TO
SUPPORT ASK**



**DOUBLE DOWN
ON ASK**

Example Lawmaker Thank You

Dear Senator Smith,

Thank you for meeting with me on Sept. 28, 2020. Cancer research funding is important to me because I lost my dad to cancer when I was just 12 years old. I'm asking you to support \$40 billion for the National Cancer Institute so that more kids like me don't have to lose their fathers.

Sincerely,
Katie Jones
1234 Elm Street
Madeupville, NV 12345

How did my lawmaker vote on a bill?

Click Here: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes>

Advocacy Actions from Home



Write a letter, send an email to your elected officials, or even organize a letter writing campaign. A handwritten note can go a long way. An email, when appropriate, can be just as effective.



Organize or participate in a call-in day. Many organizations host national call-in days as a way to raise awareness and influence public policy.



Request that your governor or local elected officials declare, or proclaim, publicly that a day or month is set aside to raise awareness for a cause.

Many organizations will organize and issue simple action alerts to mobilize a large number of people to influence public policy.



Other Ways to Advocate



**FIND A FAMILY-FRIENDLY
MARCH OR RALLY IN YOUR
LOCAL COMMUNITY.**



**WHEN YOU TURN 18,
REGISTER TO VOTE SO YOU
CAN PARTICIPATE IN YOUR
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.**

OUR WORLD - OUR FUTURE!



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