Understanding And Working With The Legislature

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Water Education Foundation

Water 101 – The Basics and Beyond
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Water Politics Can Be A Full Body Contact Sport
To Play The Game, You Need To Know:

- The Players
- The Rules of the Game
- Some Strategy
Meet The California Legislature

**Senate**
- 40 Members
  - 26 Dems
  - 14 Reps
- 4 Year Terms
  - 6 – 2016*
  - 7 – 2018*
  - 11 – 2020*
  - 8 – 2022†
  - 3 – 2024†
  - 5 – 2026†

**Assembly**
- 80 Members
  - 51 Dems
  - 28 Reps
  - 1 Vacancy
- 2 Year Terms
  - 14 – 2016*
  - 39 – 2024†
  - 26 – 2026†

* Old Term Limit Rules (3 Asm, 2 Sen)
† New Term Limits Rules (12 yrs Total)
Meet The California Legislature

**Senate**
- 7 Educator
- 7 Local Government
- 5 Attorney
- 5 Business Owner
- 3 Former Leg Staffer
- 3 Rancher/Farmer
- 3 Medical
- 2 Business Persons
- 5 Miscellaneous

**Assembly**
- 15 Local Government
- 11 Educator
- 9 Business Owner
- 9 Former Leg Staffer
- 8 Attorney
- 3 Business Person
- 3 Rancher/Farmer
- 21 Miscellaneous
Leadership

**Senate**
- Pro Tem: Kevin de Leon
- Minority Leader: Jean Fuller

**Assembly**
- Speaker (3/7/16): Anthony Rendon
- Minority Leader: Chad Mayes
What Do We Do?

- Adopt Rules
- Pass New Laws
- Appropriate Funds
- Oversight of Executive Branch
- Constituent Services
Legislative Calendar
Key Dates:

Jan. 10  Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a))
Jan. 22  Last day to submit bill requests to Legislative Counsel
Jan. 31  Last day for bills introduced in 2013 to be passed bills out of the house of origin (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c))
Feb. 19  Last day for bills to be introduced
Apr. 22  Last day for policy committees to hear & report fiscal bills
May 6   Last day for policy committees to hear & report non-fiscal bills
May 13  Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 6
May 27  Last day for fiscal committees to hear & report bills

May 31–June 3
Floor Session Only. No committee may meet for any purpose

June 3  Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin
Legislative Calendar

Key Dates:

Jun 6 Committee meetings may resume
Jun 15 Budget must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (c)(3)).
June 30 Last Day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 2014 ballot
July 1 Last Day for policy committees to meet & report bills
Summer Recess begins upon adjournment (if budget passed)
Aug. 1 Reconvene from Summer Recess
Aug. 12 Last day for fiscal committees to meet & report bills to the Floor
Aug. 19 Last day to amend bills on the Floor

Aug. 15–31
Floor Session only. No committees, other than Conference Committees & Rules Committee, may meet for any purpose

Aug. 31 Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec. 10 (c))
Final Recess begins at the end of this day’s session
Standing Committees

**Senate**
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Banking & Financial Institutions
- Budget & Fiscal Review
- Business, Professions & Economic Development
- Education
- Elections & Constitutional Amendments
- Energy, Utilities & Communications
- Environmental Quality
- Governance & Finance
- Governmental Organization
- Health
- Human Services
- Insurance
- Judiciary
- Labor & Industrial Relations
- Legislative Ethics
- Natural Resources & Water
- Public Employment & Retirement
- Public Safety
- Rules
- Transportation & Housing
- Veterans Affairs

**Assembly**
- Accountability & Administrative Review
- Aging & Long-Term Care
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, & Internet Media
- Banking & Finance
- Budget
- Business, Professions & Consumer Protection
- Education
- Elections & Redistricting
- Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials
- Governmental Organization
- Health
- Higher Education
- Housing & Community Development
- Human Services
- Insurance
- Jobs, Economic Development, & the Economy
- Judiciary
- Labor & Employment
- Local Government
- Natural Resources
- Privacy & Consumer Protection
- Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security
- Public Safety
- Revenue & Taxation
- Rules
- Transportation
- Utilities & Commerce
- Veterans Affairs
- Water, Parks & Wildlife
How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. **Bill is introduced**
   - Committee Hearings
2. **Committee Hearings**
3. **Floor Action**
   - If passed (Sent to other house)
4. **Floor Action**
   - If passed with amendments
5. **Returned to original house**
6. **Bill goes to Governor**
   - If original house concurs
7. **Most bills become law January 1 of the next year**
   - If not vetoed
Bill Load Has Been Declining

Bills Introduced

Bills Enacted
Governor

Senate Floor

Senate Budget Committee

Senate Budget Subcommittees
No. 1 Education
No. 2 Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy, & Transportation
No. 3 Health & Human Services
No. 4 State Administration, General Government, Judicial, & Veterans Affairs
No. 5 Revenue, the Economy, & Labor

Assembly Floor

Assembly Budget Committee

Assembly Budget Subcommittees
No. 1 Health & Human Services
No. 2 Education & Finance
No. 3 Resources
No. 4 State Administration
No. 5 Information Technology & Transportation

Budget Conference Committee

Senate Floor
Oversight: Standing & Select Committees

16 Senate Select Committees:

- Aging and Long Term Care
- Biliteracy and Dual Immersion Programs in California
- California-Mexico Cooperation
- California’s Wine Industry
- Children with Special Needs
- Climate Change and AB 32 Implementation
- Defense and Aerospace
- Manufactured Home Communities
- Mental Health
- Missing and Unidentified Persons
- Passenger Rail
- Policy Alignment and State Government Efficiency
- Ports and Goods Movement
- Refugio Oil Spill
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- Women and Inequality: Strategies to Promote Opportunity

43 Assembly Select Committees, Including:

- 2024 Olympic Games
- Aerospace
- California-México Bi-National Affairs
- California's Clean Energy Economy
- Craft Brewing and Distilling
- Digital Divide in Rural California
- End of Life Health Care
- Homelessness
- Improving Bay Area Transportation Systems
- Job Creation for the New Economy
- Ports
- Regional Approaches to Addressing California’s Water Crisis
- STEM Education
- Status of Boys and Men of Color in California
- Urban Rivers and Streams
- Wine
Constituent Services

(That Means You!)
Some Strategy

- Understand Our Process
- Know What’s Going On
- Know Some Lingo
- Don’t Be Shy
You Can’t Tell The Players Without A Program
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All Things Bill Related:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/
Query Any Bill
Track Bills Via Subscription
Anything Else Legislative:  
http://www.legislature.ca.gov
Tell Us What You Think!
(At The Appropriate Time!)

- Bill Ideas
- Positions On Bills (In Writing)
- Issues Of Concern
- Background Information
Some Capitol Lingo

- Gut and amend
- Hijack
- Interim study
- Suspense file
- Lay off
- Stakeholder
- Sponsor
- May revise
- Blue pencil
- District bill
- Trailer bill
- Two-year bill
- Spot bill
- Speakerize
- On call
- Mod
- Job killer
- Urgency clause
Final Points

- Staff Are Important Contacts
- Paper Is Better Than E-Mail
  E-Mail Is Better Than Phone
- Time Is Usually Of The Essence
- If In Doubt, Ask
So What Might We See This Year?
Questions?