

Legislative Process and Advocacy 101

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Overview

- Legislative Institution and Process
- CML-Initiated Legislation
- Developing Relationships
- Best Practices for Advocacy



75th Colorado General Assembly

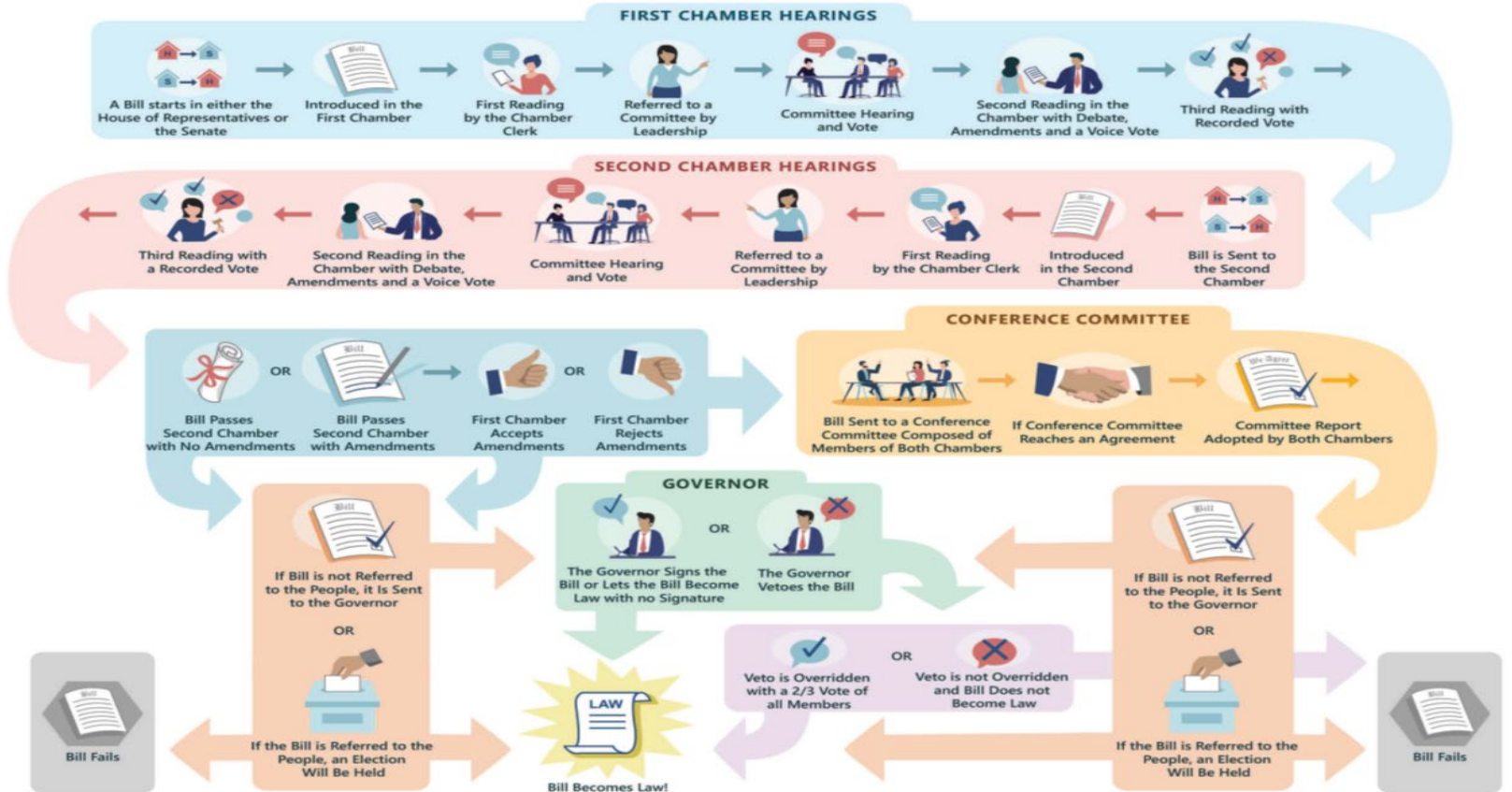
- Convene no later than the second Wednesday in January
- Sine Die – 120 days later
- Deadlines = suggestions
- Pacing as session ends



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How a Bill Becomes a Law

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN COLORADO



Initiated Legislation

CML-Initiated

- Approval by Policy Committee (Oct 17) and Executive Board (Oct 24)
- CML staff manages bill drafting/passage

Town Initiated

- Council decision
- In-house government affairs/contract lobbyist
- Sponsors = Local Representative and Senator



Relationships & Advocacy

Developing relationships outside the Capitol building ensures better results when you're in the Capitol building.



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Overview

"If you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu."

- Local elected officials play critical role
 - Direct impacts to local governments
 - Lofty policy goals vs. reality of implementation
 - Re-educate incoming legislators
 - Mandates at local level
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Building Strategic Relationships

Local elected officials play a critical role by establishing relationships before making an ask

- Invite legislators to a council meeting, land use hearing, city project, a celebration, a ribbon cutting, festival, etc.
- Attend district events, community meetings, or listening sessions sponsored by your legislators



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Crafting Your Advocacy Message

- Remember the ABC's
 - Accuracy
 - Brevity
 - Courtesy
- Be prepared
- Quantify impact



Follow-up Strategies

- Ongoing Communication
 - Update legislators on issues important to the community
 - Make sure they receive newsletters, meeting notices, etc.
- Post-Meeting Actions
 - Maintain relationships by sending thank you notes that recap discussion
 - Continue the relationship year round



Legislative Agendas for Municipalities

- Get involved in CML's Policy Committee
 - Updates from PC member
 - CML Box Score
- Policy implementation is key
- Prioritize
 - Be mindful of capacity/political capital



When and How to Get Involved

- CML Statehouse Reports & Action Alerts
- Meet with legislators during session
 - Email/text/call
- Testify (local elected officials + staff)
- Utilize social media when possible
- Unsure? Ask us!



How CML Can Help

CML Advocacy Resources

- **Legislative Support**
 - Meeting facilitation & testimony guidance
 - Answers to legislative questions
- **Stay Informed**
 - *Weekly Statehouse Report*
 - *Bi-weekly CML Newsletter*
 - *Quarterly Colorado Municipalities* magazine
- **Online Tools**
 - CML Advocacy Hub - www.cml.org/advocacy-legal
 - Position papers, Box Score, legislative webinars
 - Annual Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipalities
- **Follow Us**
 - Facebook & X: @co_municipal



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Thank you!

Questions?

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