

# YOUR MUNICIPAL VOICE AT THE CAPITOL



This document is to help you, as a municipal official, to better understand the process and the personnel at the Arizona State Capitol. As always, the League's legislative staff is here to support you. You can contact us anytime at 602-258-5786 or [league@azleague.org](mailto:league@azleague.org).

## LEGISLATURE 101: AN INTRODUCTION TO LAWMAKING AND THE CAPITOL IN 2015

### HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

Each session state legislators introduce approximately 1,200 bills, nearly a quarter of which have some relevance to cities and towns.

On Monday, January 12, the Legislature convened. Bills start in either the House or the Senate, depending upon who sponsors the bill. Senate bills start with "1001," House bills start with "2001" and are then numbered sequentially. Although there are some differences in how each chamber operates, the basic process is the same. There are six sequential steps that take place in each.

1) Bill Assignment - A bill is "first and second read" on the floor; and then assigned to a committee based on subject matter.

2) Committee - Committees are comprised of members from each party, with the majority party having the most seats. This is the only step in the entire legislative process that is truly "open to the public" for comment. Members of the committee may offer amendments to change the language of a bill. If a bill fails here, the bill is "dead," although there are many methods available to resurrect it. If it passes, it moves on to Rules Committee.

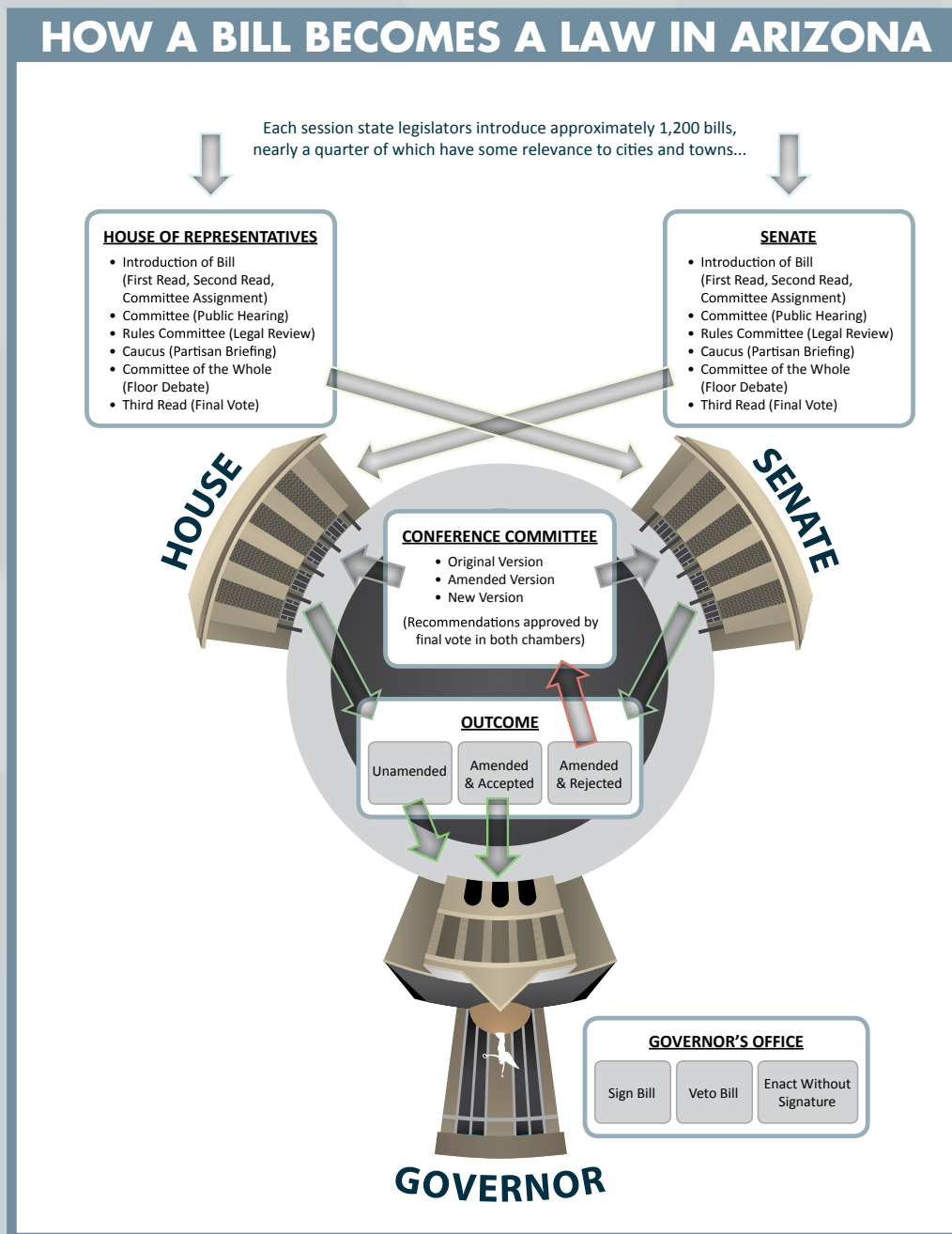
3) Rules Committee - Every moving bill must go through Rules Committee for legal review, discussing whether the bill is constitutional, germane with existing statute and in the proper format. The committee does not give a bill a pass or fail recommendation.

4) Caucus - The members of each party meet to review bills and the "party position" is vetted. No formal action takes place.

5) Committee of the Whole (COW) - The entire chamber comes together for a floor debate. At this point committee amendments as well as floor amendments are formally offered and adopted. Discussions can be a few minutes or several hours. In COW, a voice vote is used.

6) Third Read - All changes adopted in COW are officially engrossed into the bill and prepared for a final vote. This vote is electronically tallied. Like the committee process, if a bill fails on third read it is considered "dead" with the possibility of procedural resurrection. If it passes, the bill then goes to the other chamber and the same steps are repeated.

# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN ARIZONA



If an identical bill passes both chambers without any amendments, it goes straight to the governor's office. If a bill is approved in one chamber, amended in the other chamber (but that amendment is approved by the sponsoring chamber) it also advances to the governor's office. If a bill comes out of its second chamber different than it went in (through the amendment process) it will go to a conference committee. This committee is made up of members from both chambers who will work towards a version of the bill amenable to both chambers. If a chamber rejects the committee's recommendation, the bill is considered "dead." If a bill is amended by a conference committee it is then final read by both chambers. If it passes final read, it is transmitted to the governor's office.

Once a bill is in the governor's office, he or she can sign it into law, veto the bill or allow the legislation to become enacted without his or her signature.

Bill language, hearing schedules, live feeds and status information are available at the Arizona State Legislature's website; [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov).

During the session League staff spends countless hours at the legislature tracking bills. We encourage our members to stay abreast of legislative issues impacting cities and towns through our weekly **Legislative Bulletin** and by contacting the League at 602-258-5786. You may also visit the **Legislative Issues** section of the **League's website** where you will find a number of resources to help city and town officials navigate the legislative process.

# A LOOK AT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES FOR 2015

2015 has brought a number of changes to the Capitol. We have a new governor leading Arizona along with three sets of new caucus leaders in the Legislature. Below is a brief overview of the new executive and legislative leadership.



**Governor of Arizona –  
Doug Ducey**

The governor is the chief executive officer of the state and is in charge of the executive branch of government.



**Speaker of the House –  
Representative David Gowan**

The speaker is in charge of the House and represents the House with the governor and the Senate president.



**Senate President –  
Senator Andy Biggs**

The president is in charge of the Senate, and represents the Senate with the governor and the speaker of the House.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**Majority Leader –  
Representative Steve Montenegro**

The majority leader is in charge of that party's caucus, after the speaker.



**Assistant Minority Leader –  
Representative Bruce Wheeler**

The assistant minority leader is in charge of that party's caucus, after the minority leader.



**Majority Whip –  
Representative David Livingston**

The majority whip's job is to gather the necessary votes on a bill for that party.



**Minority Whip –  
Representative Rebecca Rios**

The minority whip's job is to gather the necessary votes on a bill for that party.



**Minority Leader –  
Representative Eric Meyer, M.D.**

The minority leader is in charge of his or her caucus, and is the main liaison with the majority leadership.

# SENATE



**Majority Leader –  
Senator Steve Yarbrough**

The majority leader is in charge of that party's caucus, after the president.



**Minority Co-Whip –  
Senator Lupe Contreras**

The minority whip's (and co-whip's) job is to gather the necessary votes on a bill for that party.



**Majority Whip –  
Senator Gail Griffin**

The majority whip's job is to gather the necessary votes on a bill for that party.



**Minority Co-Whip –  
Senator Martin Quezada**

The minority whip's (and co-whip's) job is to gather the necessary votes on a bill for that party.



**Minority Leader –  
Senator Katie Hobbs**

The minority leader is in charge of his or her caucus, and is the main liaison with the majority leadership.



**Rural Liaison –  
Senator Barbara Maguire**

The rural liaison addresses issues related to non-metropolitan areas.



**Assistant Minority Leader –  
Senator Steve Farley**

The assistant minority leader is in charge of that party's caucus, after the minority leader.



**Minority Leader Pro Tempore –  
Senator David Bradley**

The minority leader pro tempore acts for the minority leader in that person's absence.

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE CONTACT LIST

The list on the following pages includes:

- the name of each senator and representative and the district and the cities and towns they represent
- the Capitol address and toll-free number
- legislators' office phone numbers
- legislators' e-mail addresses

A useful tool for accessing legislative information is the Legislature's web site; [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov). In addition, the League provides legislative information and services specifically for city and town officials on the [Legislative Issues](#) section of the [League's Website](#).

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