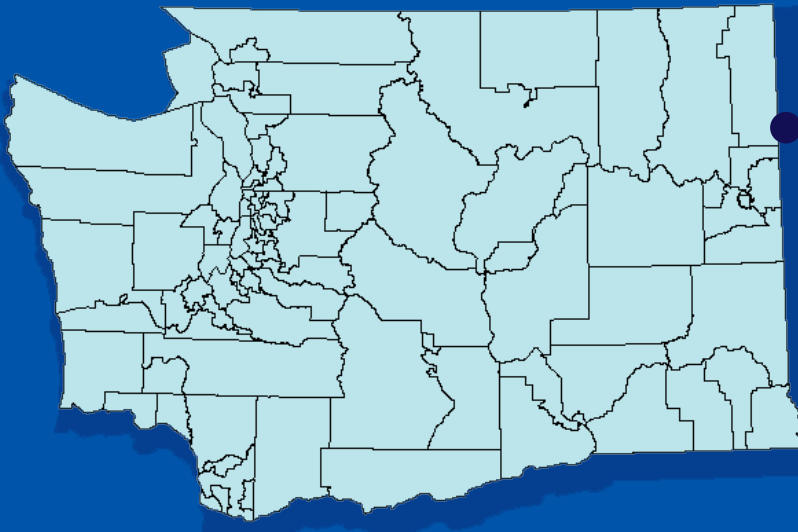


MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A Guide to the Washington Legislature

HOW THE LEGISLATURE WORKS



49

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

District boundaries
change with the
the U.S. Census



EACH LEGISLATOR

MUST BE:

- ✓ at least eighteen years of age,
- ✓ a United States citizen, and
- ✓ a qualified elector* in the legislative district from which elected.

***A QUALIFIED ELECTOR...**

means any person who has resided in their district for at least thirty (30) days preceding the election at which he or she desires to vote, and who is registered as required by law.



WASHINGTON ELECTS

49 AND 98

SENATORS

REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

DEBATING THE
MERITS OF BILLS



DRAFTING AND
INTRODUCING BILLS

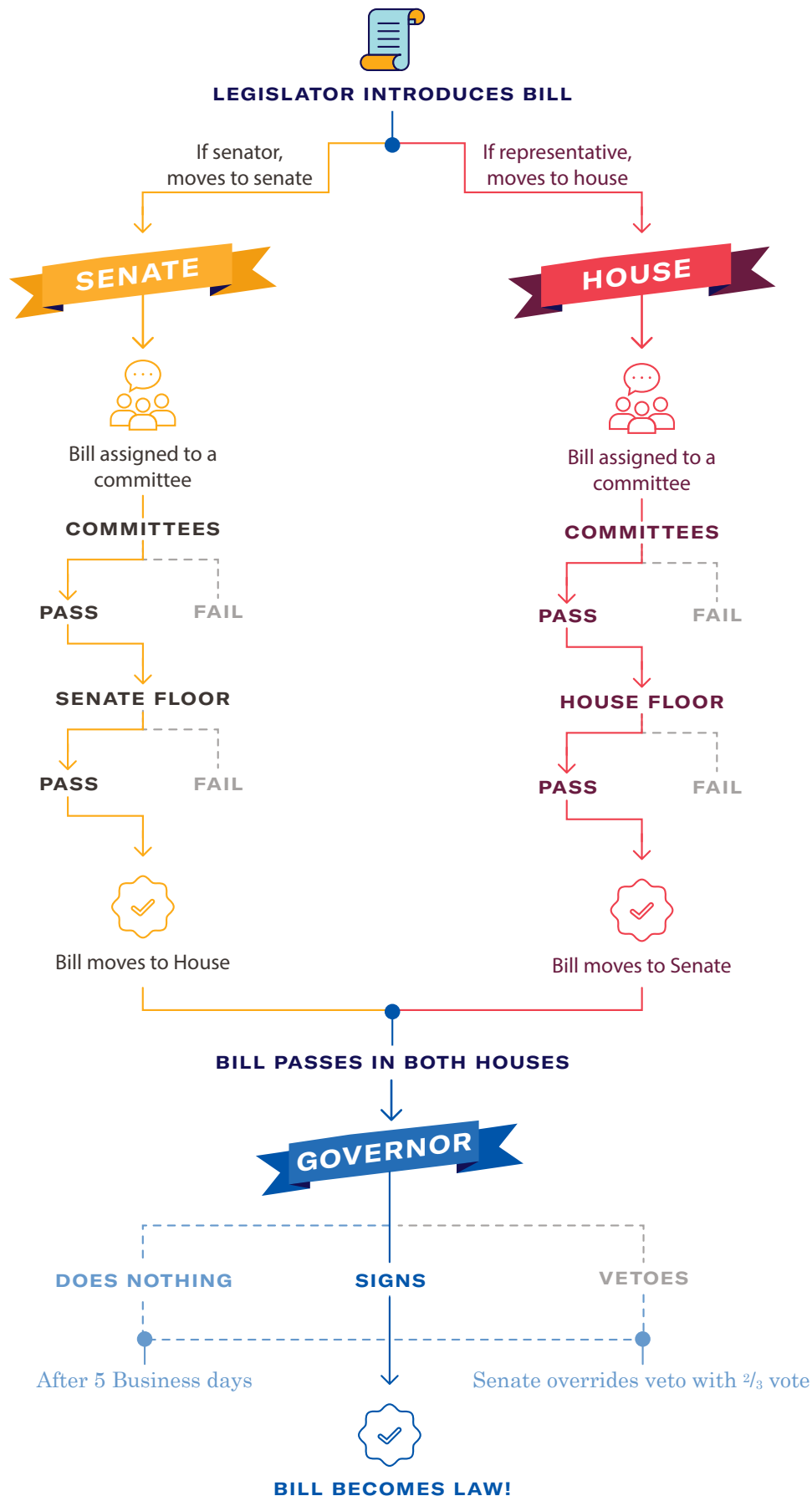


VOTING TO
PASS OR KILL BILLS



SENATORS SERVE 4 YR TERMS &
REPRESENTATIVES SERVE 2 YR TERMS

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



ELECTED OFFICIALS

CONSTITUENTS

— If legislators don't hear from you, they don't know which issues matter to you.



**FIRST THINGS FIRST,
RESEARCH YOUR LEGISLATOR**



WWW.LEG.WA.GOV



**CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS
EARLY AND OFTEN**

WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR



CALL THEM OR WRITE THEM



✓ TIP 1

Know your district and the name of your legislator

✓ TIP 2

Plan out what you will say

✓ TIP 3

Remember to mention the bill number (if there is one) and why you are calling or writing

✓ TIP 4

Make it short and sweet and get to your point quickly

✓ TIP 5

Tell a personal story they can connect with

✓ TIP 6

Problem, solution, action (i.e. "Vote yes on HB xxxx!")



MEET THEM IN PERSON



STEP ONE

Schedule your meeting



STEP TWO

Be flexible and patient



STEP THREE

Prepare and educate yourself and establish a clear goal



STEP FOUR

Follow up and say thank you!

IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY



WRITE A **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**



SPREAD THE WORD

Talk with friends and family on social media or in person. Don't be afraid to talk politics, it's important.



WRITE AN **OP-ED**



JOIN A **CAUSE** OR ORGANIZATION



ATTEND LEGISLATIVE COFFEES ☕
OR IN-DISTRICT MEETINGS



MARCH OR **PROTEST**

PERSONAL STORIES OF HOW A LAW IMPACTS YOU MATTER

**THEY START IMPORTANT
CONVERSATIONS**



**THEY MAKE AN
EMOTIONAL CONNECTION**



**THEY OPEN THE DOOR
TO LASTING CHANGE**

**SHOWING UP IS VITAL. NO MATTER
HOW YOU DO IT.**

Your efforts, stories, and
voices are what will chip
away at the boulder of
injustice.



For more tips, visit :
ACLU-WA.ORG

ACLU
Washington