

How to Influence Public Policy: An Introduction to Advocacy

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention
Green Bay, Wisconsin
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John Keckhaver, Wisconsin Lakes Lobbyist



Agenda

- Legislative Process Review
- Communication Tips



Legislative Process Review

Key Points to Remember

- There are several distinct stages of the legislative process.
- Each stage has key policy-makers who will make the decisions.
- Policy-makers respond to a variety of pressures – communications from citizens is one of those.
- Don't be afraid to learn about politics – every governmental decision is made in a political context.

State Legislative Process

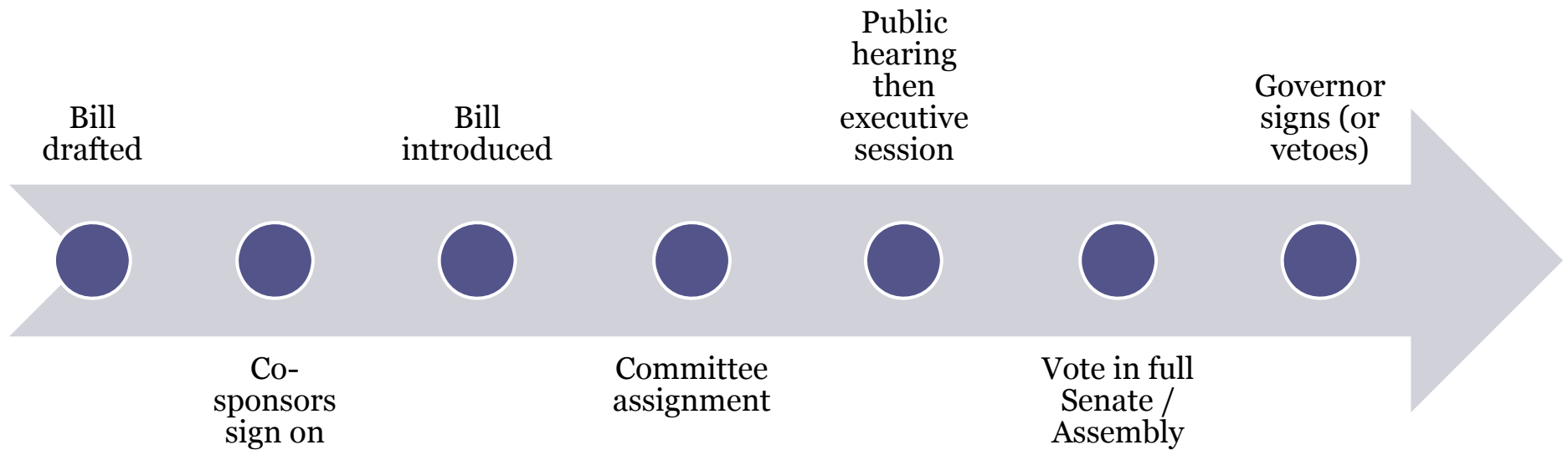
2-Year Legislative Sessions (Run on calendar years, but legislature not “active” throughout)

2-Year State Budgets (Fiscal years run July 1st to June 30th)

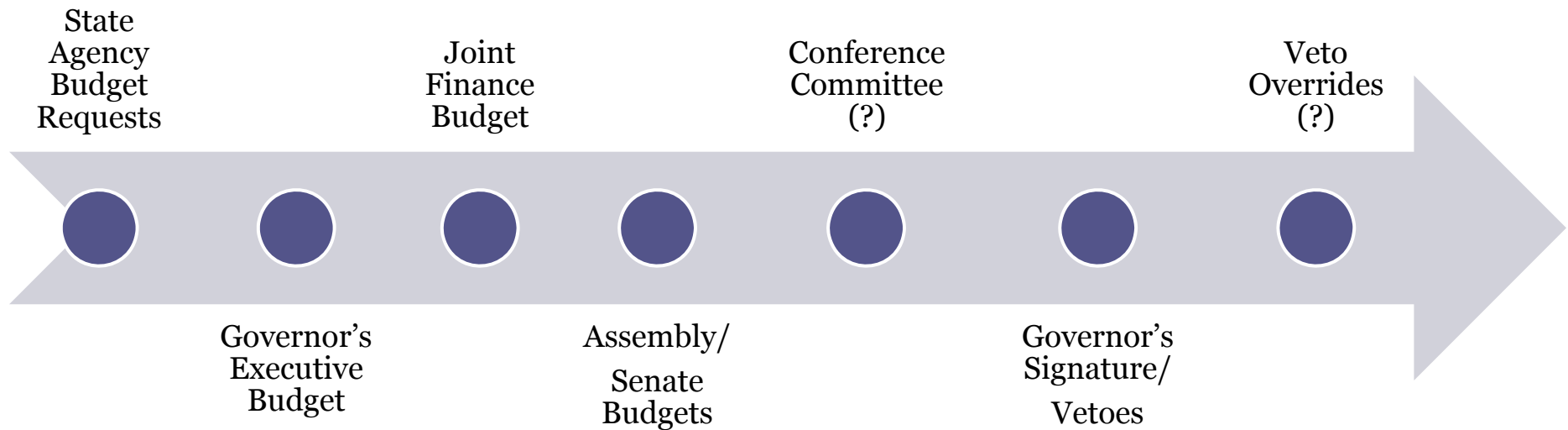
The legislative session calendar controls much of what you do as an advocate.

- January 3, 2011 Monday
- Floor period January 11, 2011 Tuesday
- Floor period Jan 25 to Feb. 10, 2011 Tu – Th
- Floor period February 22 to 24, 2011 Tu – Th
- Floor period March 8 to 10, 2011 Tu – Th
- Bills sent to Governor March 24, 2011 Thursday
- Floor period April 5 to 14, 2011 Tu – Th
- Floor period May 10 to 19, 2011 Tu – Th
- Floor period June 7 to 30, 2011, **OR** budget passage
- Non budget Bills sent to Governor August 4, 2011 Thursday
- Budget Bill sent to Governor August 4, 2011 (or later) Thursday
- Floor period September 13 to 22, 2011 Tu – Th
- Floor period October 18 to Nov. 3, 2011 Tu – Th
- Bills sent to Governor December 8, 2011 Thursday
- Floor period January 17 to 26, 2012 Tu – Th
- Floor period February 14 to 23, 2012 Tu – Th
- Last general–business Floor period March 6 to 15, 2012 Tu – Th
- Bills sent to Governor March 22, 2012 Thursday
- Limited–business Floor period April 24 to May 3, 2012 Tu – Th
- Bills sent to Governor May 10, 2012 Thursday
- Veto Review Floor period May 22 and 23, 2012 Tu – W
- Interim, committee work May 24, 2012, to Jan. 7, 2013 Th – Mon
- Bills sent to Governor June 13, 2012 Wednesday
- 2013 Inauguration January 7, 2013 Monday

State Legislative Process



State Budget Process





State Budget Process

- **State Agency Budget Requests**
 - Agencies receive budget instructions in spring of 2012
 - Already at work internally developing their budget requests



State Budget Process

- **Governor's Executive Budget**
 - State Budget Office/Department of Administration compile agency requests and combine them with most recent revenue estimates
 - New governor will take all of this information and form his budget, to be released in January, 2013

State Budget Process

- Joint Finance Budget
 - February – June, 2013
 - Comprised of 8 Senate members and 8 Assembly members (both parties represented but majority party controls)
 - Holds state agency briefings, public hearings and executive sessions
 - Powerful committee

*****Critical stage of the process*****



State Budget Process

- **Assembly/Senate Budgets**
 - June – July, 2013
 - Order switches every budget (2013-2015 budget will go to Assembly first)
 - Majority party caucus in each house writes their version
 - Can be significantly different than JFC version



State Budget Process

- Conference Committee (?)
 - July - ?, 2013
 - Even if one party controls both houses, a conference committee may be formed if Assembly and Senate versions differ



State Budget Process

- Governor's Signature/Vetoes
 - July 1st is first day of fiscal year
 - Very powerful line-item veto power



State Budget Process

- Veto Overrides (?)
 - Very unlikely (need two-thirds vote to override)



Constant Considerations

- Who is going to make the decisions on this issue?
- When are they going to have to make those decisions?

Resources

- Legislative Website:
 - <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Sign up for *Wisconsin Lakes* E-Alerts, etc.
 - www.wisconsinlakes.org
- Call me!
 - John Keckhaver – 608.395.1805
- Web News Resources:
 - www.thewheelerreport.com
 - www.wispolitics.com



Communication Tips

- Knowledge about process will not matter unless you turn that knowledge into the right kinds of **communications** to the right people at the right time.

Handout on Communication Tips