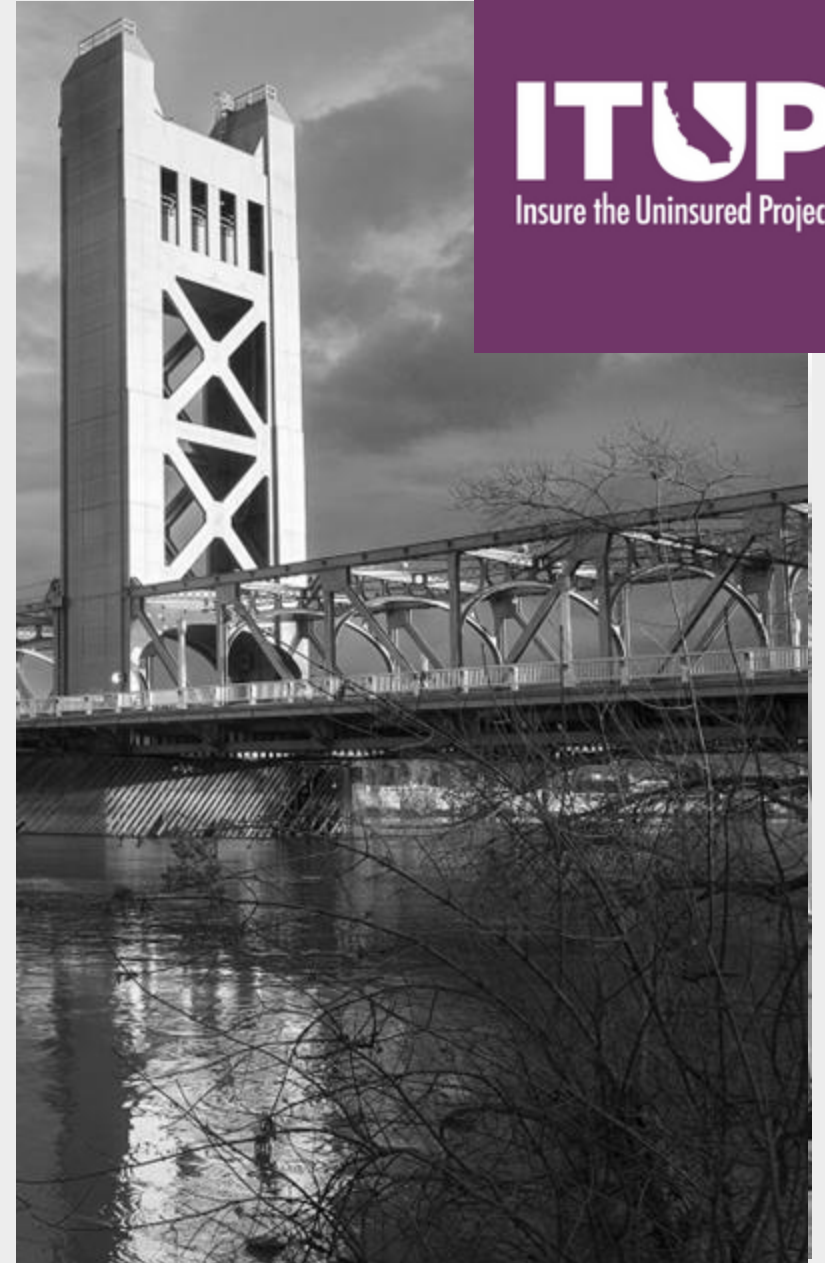


Legislative and Budget Process: How to Engage

Jana Wright, MPH, Director of Policy



Training Agenda



1. Overview

2. Processes and How They Intersect

3. Ways to Engage



Legislative Bills



Budget

Government Overview: Key Roles

Legislature



Pass Laws and Resolutions
Inputs and Approves State Budget
Holds Informational, Policy, and Fiscal Hearings

Governor



Signs or Veto Bills
Proposes and Signs Budget
Appointments

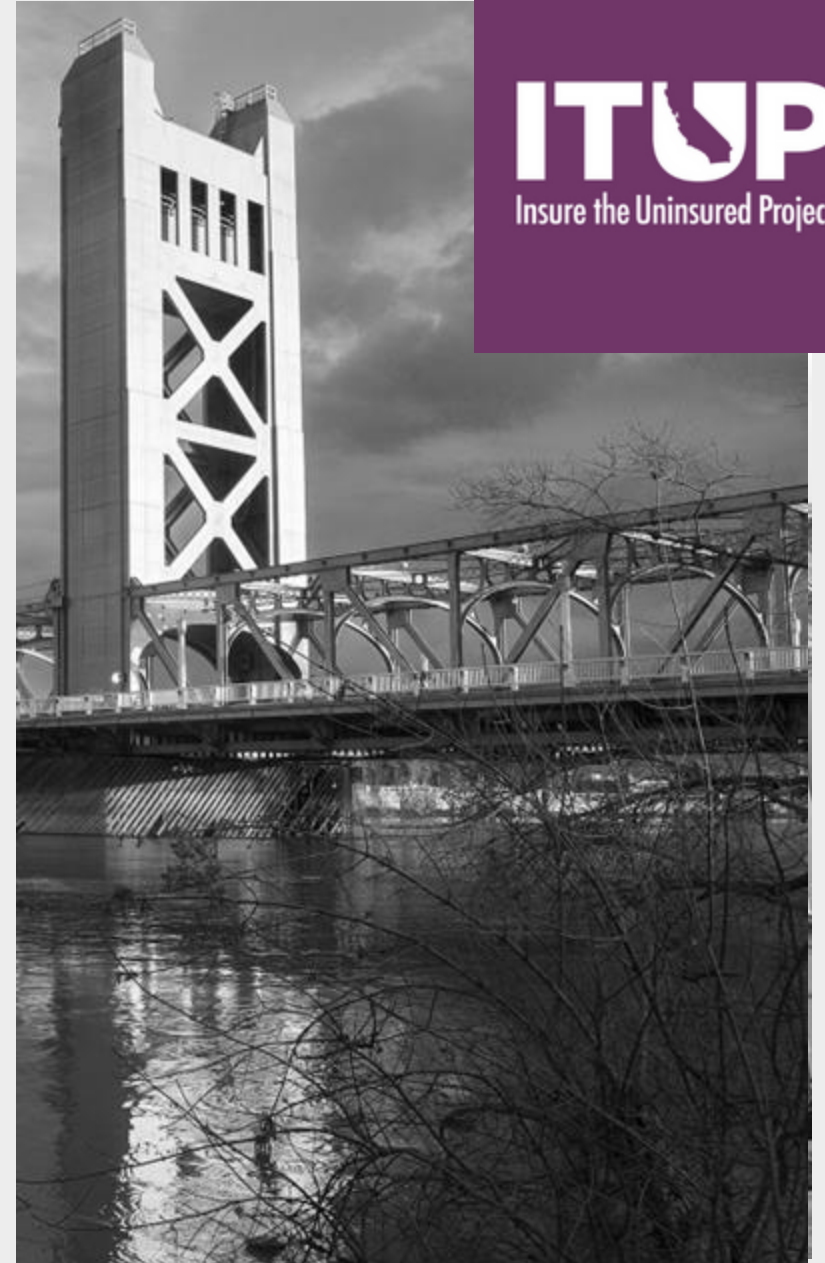
Agency/Departments



Reports to Governor
Create, Administer, and Evaluate Programs
Develop and Implement Regulations and Rules

Executive Branch

California Legislative Process 101



ITUP
Insure the Uninsured Project

Overview: California's Legislature



- Two-Year Legislative Session ("Biennial" session)
- Two Houses ("Bicameral Legislature")
 - State Assembly: 80 Assemblymembers, two-year terms each
 - State Senate: 40 Senators, four-year terms each
- Term Limits—12 years total

Legislative Calendar

- Find the current calendar, that includes key deadlines on both the California [Assembly](#) and [Senate](#) websites
- Includes deadlines for both the Legislature and the Governor's budget.

Pro Tip!

The Legislative and Budget deadlines are included in the same timeline.

Legislative Calendar: Key Deadlines



2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 11-1-22

DEADLINES

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 3** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 12** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 19** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(3)) (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).
- Feb. 16** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

JANUARY

	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

- Bill Introduction
- Policy Committee
- Fiscal Committee
- House of Origin
- End of Session
- Recesses (Summer and Fall)
- Sign/Veto

2024 Legislative Calendar: Key Deadlines



- Bill Introduction – February 16
- Policy Committee – April 26
- Fiscal Committee – May 17
- House of Origin – May 24
- End of Session – August 31
- Recesses (Spring and Summer)
- Sign/Veto - September 30



Fast Facts: Leading Up to and Introducing a Bill



- Legislative Offices Determine Legislative Priorities for the Year
- Draft Bills
- Stakeholder Sponsored Bills
- Once a Bill has been Introduced (in print):
 - Must be in print for 30 days before it can be acted on
 - Bill will be referred by the Rules Committee to the appropriate policy committee(s)

Pro Tip!

Legislative Staff forms and finalizes their policy priorities and bill packages by January, typically. The best time to 'pitch' bill ideas or problems that need to be fixed is in the Fall before Thanksgiving.

Legislative Policy Committees



Who Makes Up Policy Committees?

- House leadership assigns chairs and members of the committees
- Small group of Legislators, ideally with interest and understanding of the policy areas

Key Health Related Policy Committees:

- [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) Health
- [Assembly Aging and Long Term Care](#)
- [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) Human Services

Function of the Legislative Policy Committees

Set Public Hearings on Referred Bills

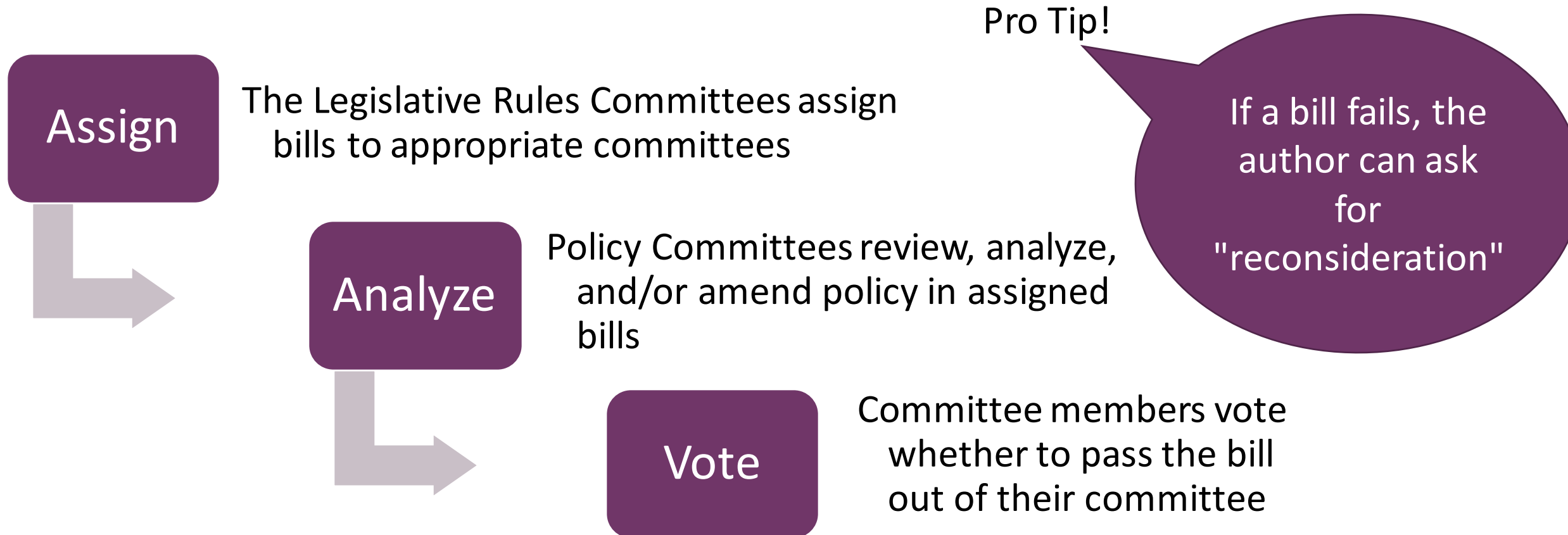
Conducts Public Hearings Which Includes:

- Publicly available bill analysis by committee consultant
- Stakeholder and public testimony
- Voting/Action by committee members
 - Do Pass (Aye)
 - Do Pass as Amended (Aye)
 - Do Not Pass (No)
 - Abstain

Pro Tip!

Assembly committees require a "motion" & a "second" while Senate committees only require a "motion" (no "second")

Overview of Policy Committee Process



Legislative Policy Committees



Important Policy Committee Rules

- Ways to Amend Bills in Policy Committee
 - Author Amendments: amendments made before being heard in policy committee, with the approval of the committee chair
 - 'Do Pass as Amended': proposed amendments that are presented to committee members and adopted, by vote, at the committee hearing
- 72 Hours in Print Rule: Any author bill amendments must be in print for 72 hours before being heard in committee

Legislative Fiscal Committees

Budget Committee

- Review and amend budget bill, based on Governor's proposal
- Holds overview hearings on Administrative, Legislative, and stakeholder budget proposals

Appropriations Committee

- Reviews, amends, and votes on policy bills that have a fiscal impact
- Holds hearings to vote on fiscal bills

Actions in both fiscal committees depend on available state revenue.

Suspense File hearings are generally the last hearing before the fiscal deadline



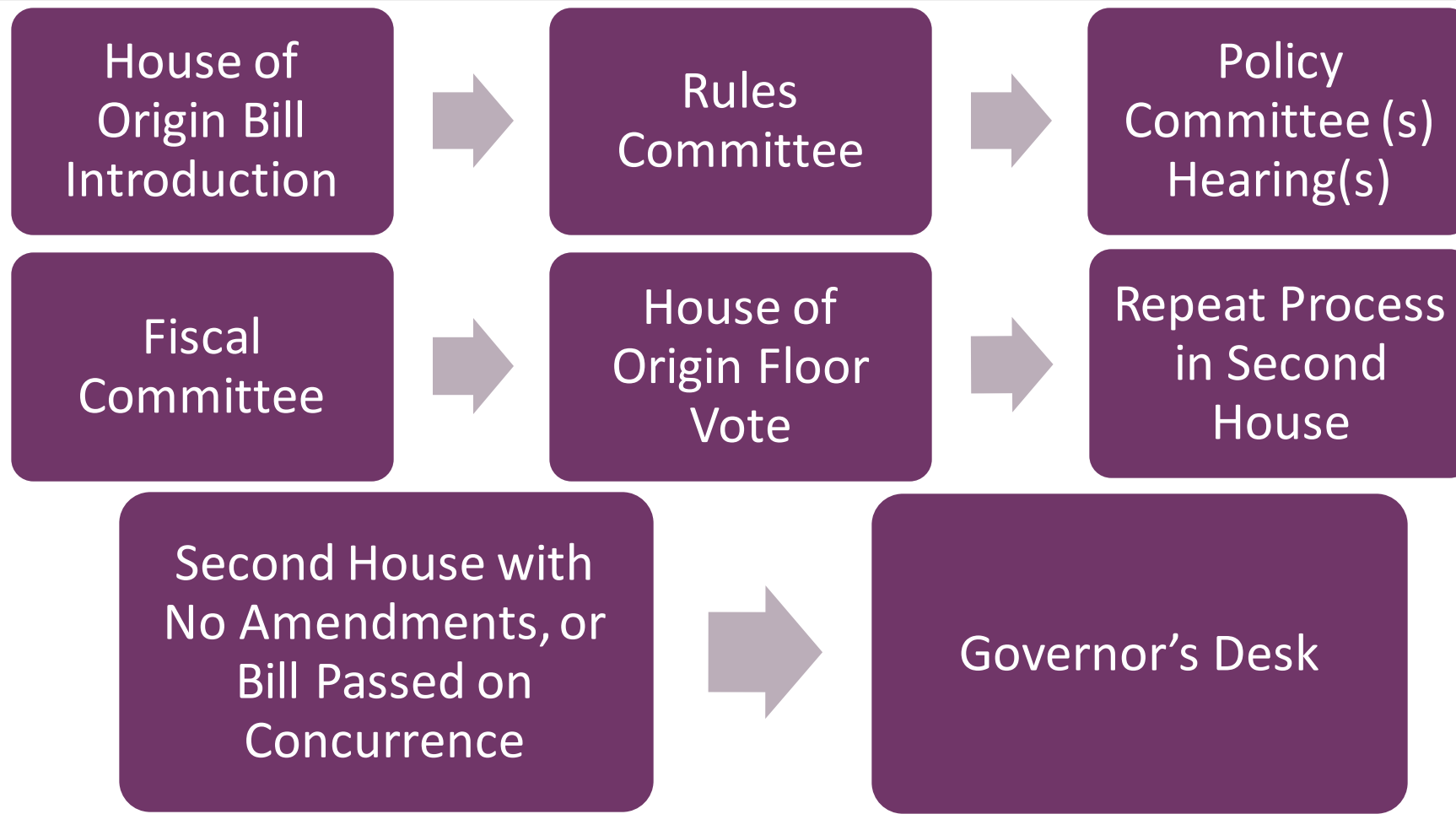
A bill is “held on suspense,” does not move forward

Appropriations Committee

Bills that will be placed on the Suspense File

- Assembly
 - Any bill with an annual cost of \$150,000 or more, from any fund
- Senate
 - Any bill with an annual cost of \$50,000 General Fund or \$150,000 federal or special funds
 - Senate Rule 28.8: Any bill determined by the committee to cost less than \$50,000 total funds, can be released from the Senate Appropriations Committee without a vote of the committee

Legislative Bill Process: Summary

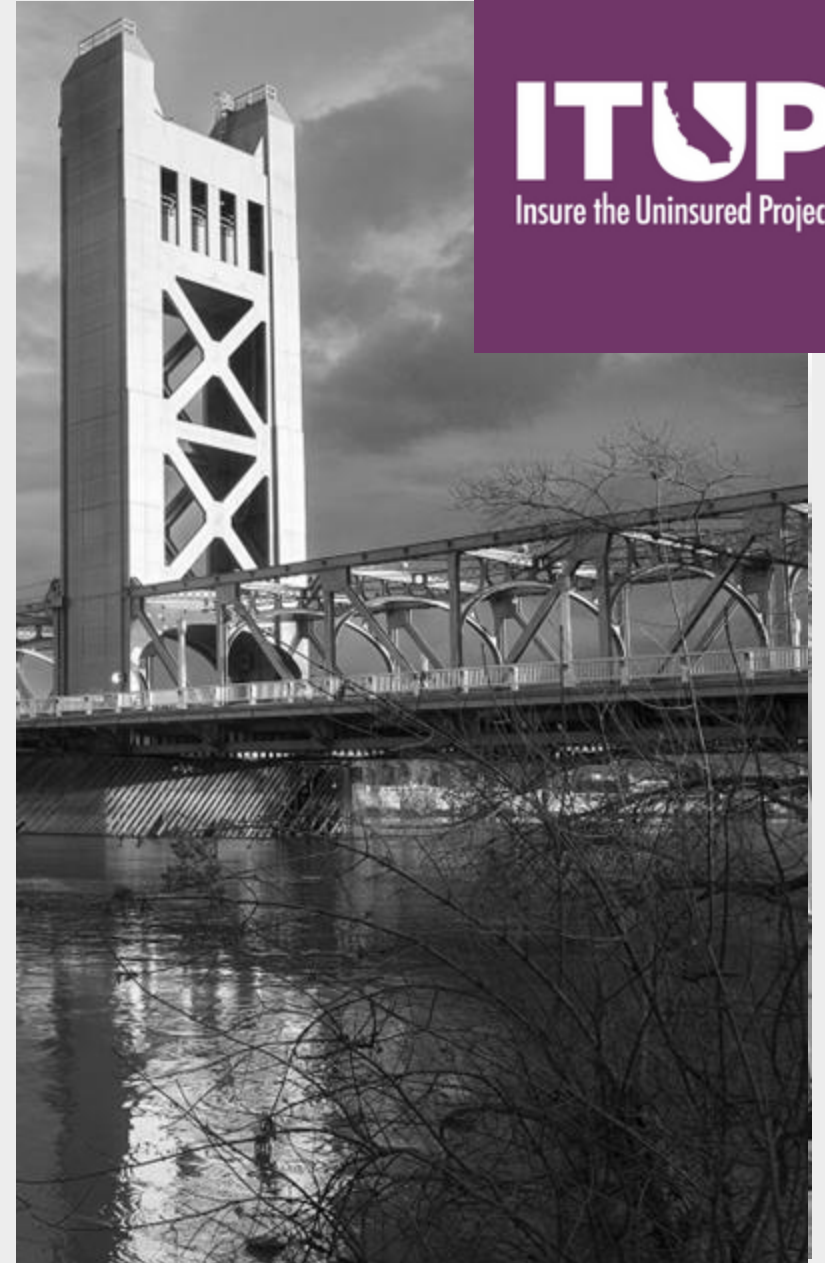


Final Stage: Going to the Governor

- Enrolled Bill: The status of a bill after passing both houses of the Legislature, but not yet acted on by the Governor.
- Enrolled Bill Reports: The Executive Branch prepares "EBRs" that include a summary of the bill and its policy and fiscal impacts. The "EBRs" are presented to the Governor to assist them in deciding.
- Governor's Options—30 Days
 - 1. Sign
 - 2. Veto
 - 3. Leave on Desk



Engagement Strategy on Legislative Bills

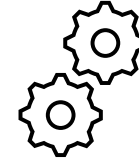


Effective Tools and Strategies for Engaging with the Government

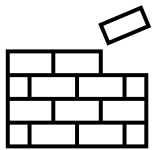
Coalition
Building



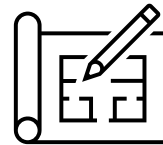
Letters of
Support



Social
Media



Meet with
Legislators and
department
Directors



Create and
Disseminate
Educational
Materials



Engaging with the Legislature

With a Bill Idea or a Problem that can be Fixed Legislatively

- Fall, preferably before Thanksgiving
- Meet with Legislative staff
- Prepare clear elevator pitch

TIPS FOR AN EFFECTIVE ELEVATOR PITCH

1. Who are you?
2. What is the problem?
3. Why is this issue important (to the Legislator and to your community)?
4. Clear ask. What is the solution, cost, and what can the Legislature do about it?

Engaging with the Legislature



On Introduced Bills:

- Policy and Fiscal Committees
 - Meet with committee staff before this bill is set for a hearing
 - Provide public testimony or 'Me Too' statements at public hearings
 - Write support or opposition letters to be included in the bill analysis
 - Social Media
 - Op-Eds

Engaging with the Legislature



On Introduced Bills:

- Before Floor Votes
 - Meet with Legislative staff after it passes policy and/or fiscal committees and before the bill is taken up on the floor.
 - Write support or opposition letters (also called 'Floor Alerts')
 - Social media
 - Op Eds

Effective Advocacy Tools and Strategies



Local Level Relationship Building

- Meet with your representatives at the state and local levels
- Invite district representative and district directors to local events in your community
- The frequency of interacting with state and local staff increases the chances for change

Effective Advocacy Spectrum: How to Engage

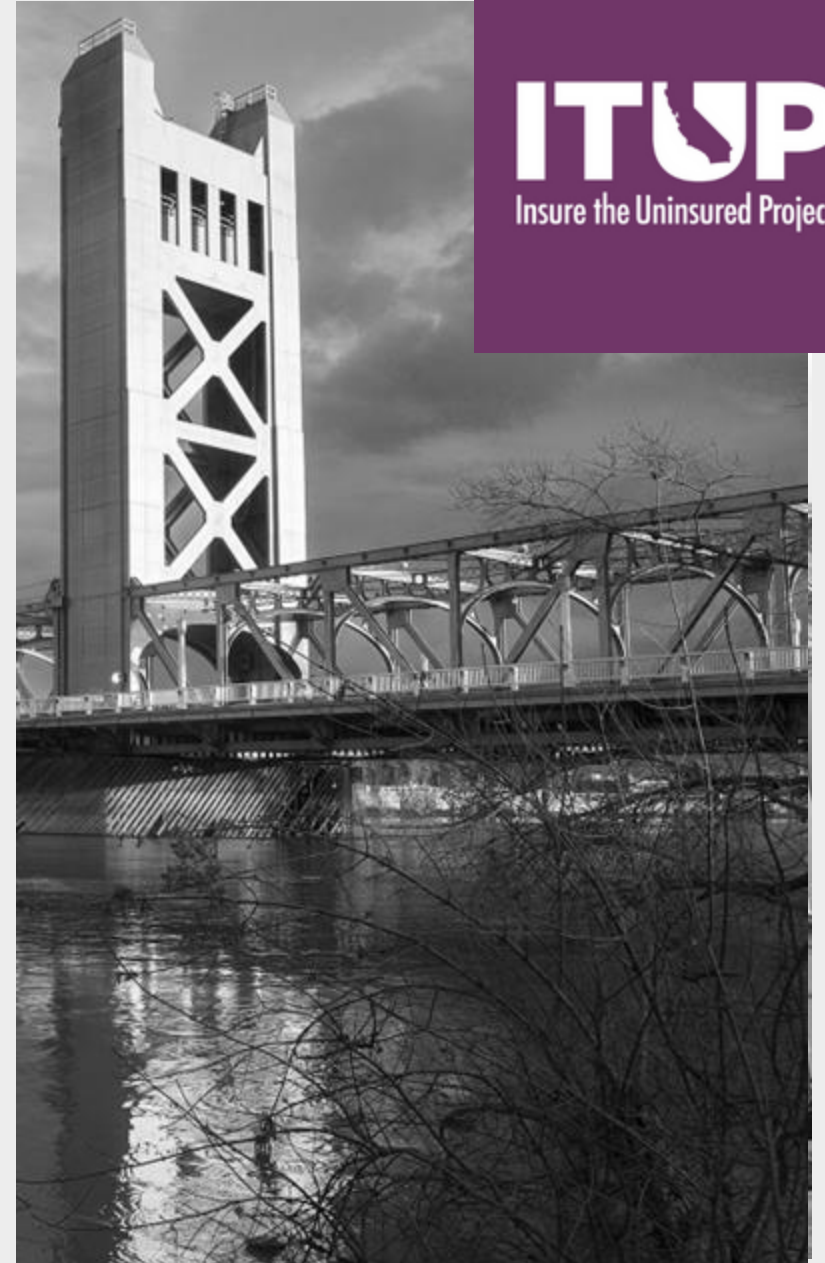


When to Engage with the Governor's Office on Legislation

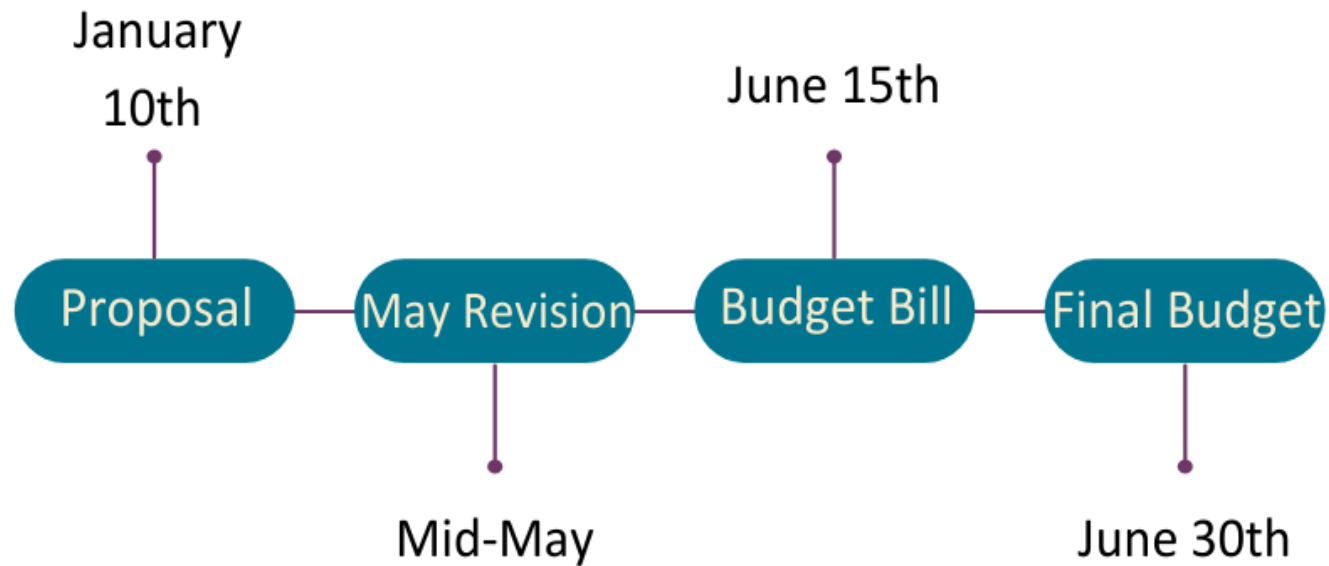


- Before First Policy Committee Hearing
 - Meet with relevant Executive Branch Departments
 - Meet with relevant Department of Finance (DOF) staff
 - Meet with Governor's Office (GO) staff
- Review DOF's Public Fiscal Analysis when Published
- Take Amendments to Address their Concerns
- When Bill "Goes to the Governor for Signature"
 - Send Sign/Veto request letters to Governor and cc relevant GO staff

California State Budget Process 101



Budget Timeline: Key Dates



California's Fiscal Year (FY) is from July 1 through June 30th

Budget Process: May Revision

What is the May Revision?

- Updated estimate of revenues and expenditures from the Governor's Proposed Budget after annual tax revenues come in
- May Revision Letters
- May Local Assistance Estimates



Access Budget Resources



Where to Find Proposal Details:

- [DOF](#)
 - Summaries and detailed documents
 - Summaries divided by issue areas
- Department Highlight Summaries
 - More detailed than DOF summaries
 - Issue specific:
 - DHCS, CDPH, CDSS, California Department of Aging
- [Legislative Analyst's Office](#)



Legislature's Role in the California Budget



February- May

Budget Committees Hear Governor's Jan. 10, Legislature, and Stakeholder Proposals

May-June

Hold May Revision Hearings; Houses must reconcile the budget, vote on, and pass one Budget Bill

June

Legislature must pass the Budget Bill by June 15 or they do not get paid or go on Summer Recess

The Governor typically tries to sign the budget bill by July 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

The Governor has the authority to reduce or eliminate any appropriation ("Blue Pencil" veto).

Legislature's Role in the California Budget: The Budget Bill



- Identical bills are introduced in both the Assembly and the Senate. The author of these bills are the respective Budget Chairs/Committees. Only one of the bills ultimately becomes the Budget Act.
- The final budget bill, voted on and approved by the Legislature with at least a 50 percent majority vote, and signed by the Governor is known as the Budget Act.
- The Budget Act is goes into effect as soon as it is signed.

May Revision 2024-2025 Highlights



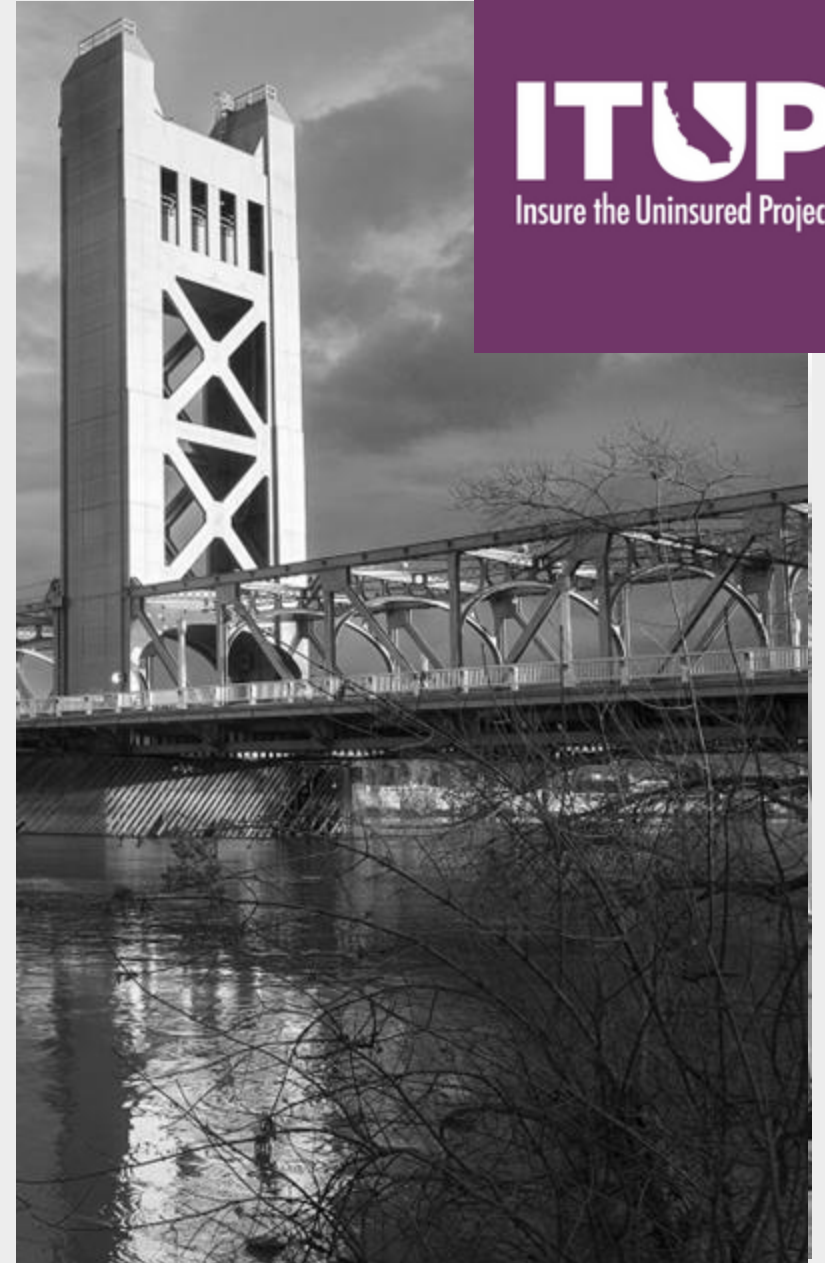
- Released today, May 10th
- Key reductions:
 - \$94 M for IHSS undocumented expansion coverage for all ages
 - \$820 M healthcare workforce
 - \$426 M CYBHI
 - \$352.5M public health funding
 - \$2B broadband

Budget Problem at the May Revision

Governor's Budget	\$37.9 billion
Shortfall Since Governor's Budget	\$7.0 billion
Early Action Budget Package	-\$17.3 billion
Remaining Budget Problem	\$27.6 billion

- Not included in the May Revision:
 - Continuous Medi-Cal coverage for kids ages 0 to 4
 - Medi-Cal share of cost reform

State Budget Engagement Strategies



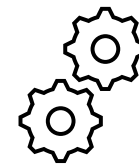
ITUP
Insure the Uninsured Project

Effective Tools and Strategies for Engaging on the State Budget

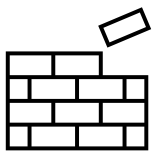
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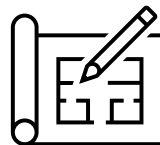
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Engaging with the Administration



Prior to January 10 Budget Release

- Meet with Administration Staff in May of the year prior to the upcoming budget if you want a change to an existing program or a new program
- Suggest they propose a Budget Change Concept
- On a parallel path, prepare the same proposal as a "Legislative Stakeholder Proposal"

Engaging with the Budget Process

After Jan. 10: Making a Budget Ask

Legislative Champion

- Find a Legislator to formally make a budget ask on your behalf
- Meet with other Legislators to gain more support for your budget ask
- Seek a Legislative Champion for your proposal in each House

Stakeholder Proposals

- Obtain stakeholder proposal deadline & hearing info from budget committee staff
- Draft letter of support templates & gather support letters for your ask
- Meet with Legislative offices to gain support

Supporting Existing Proposals

- Familiarize yourself with the January 10, May Revision, and stakeholder proposals
- Meet with staff and/or send in letters of support/opposition

Engaging After May Revision



After the May Revision Release

- Meet with Legislative, LAO, Agency, Department, and DOF staff, and elected officials, as needed. (**NOTE:** They will be busy!)
- Write support or opposition letters to Members and the Governor and cc staff
- Social media
- Op-Eds

Questions?



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