

This document is to help you, as a municipal official, 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 2017

### 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 9, the Legislature will convene. 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.

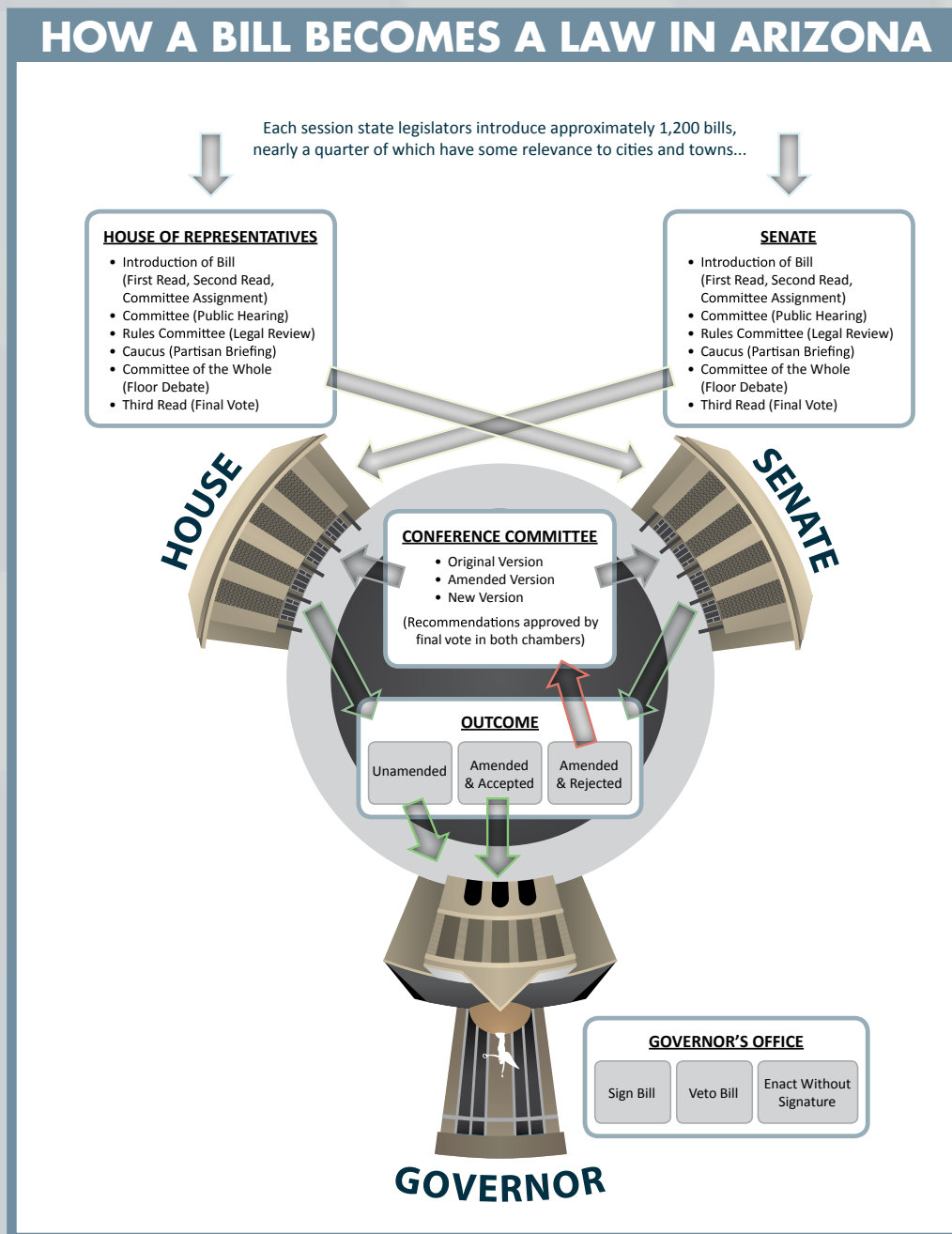
3) Rules Committee - Every moving bill must go through Rules Committee for legal review, discussing whether the bill is constitutional, germane with existing statute and in the proper format. The committee does not give a bill a pass or fail recommendation.

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 typically 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 can sign it into law, veto the bill or allow the legislation to become enacted without his 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 Monday Legislative call, the [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 2017

2017 has brought a number of changes to the Capitol. Both the House and the Senate have new leaders. Below is a brief overview of the 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 J.D. Mesnard**

The speaker is in charge of the House and acts as the chamber's liaison to the governor and the Senate president.



**Senate President –  
Senator Steve Yarbrough**

The president is in charge of the Senate and acts as the chamber's liaison to the governor and the speaker of the House.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**Majority Leader –  
Representative John Allen**

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



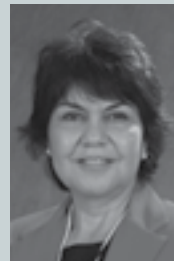
**Assistant Minority Leader –  
Representative Randall Friese**

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



**Majority Whip –  
Representative Kelly Townsend**

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



**Minority Whip –  
Representative Charlene Fernandez**

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



**Minority Leader –  
Representative Rebecca Rios**

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

# SENATE



**Majority Leader –  
Senator Kimberly Yee**

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



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

The 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 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.



**Assistant Minority Leader –  
Senator Steve Farley**

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

## LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES



**Governor Doug Ducey** was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. He moved to Arizona in 1982 to attend Arizona State University where he graduated with a degree in finance. He began a career in sales and marketing after graduating and later became partner and CEO of Cold Stone Creamery. He was elected to serve as Arizona State Treasurer in 2010 where he oversaw more than \$13 billion in state assets and served as an investment manager for local governments.

Governor Ducey and his wife Angela have three sons and reside in Paradise Valley.



# LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES CONT.



**House Speaker J.D. Mesnard** was born at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL. He has lived in Arizona for over 20 years and was first elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2010. Prior to running for office, he spent eight years working as a policy advisor at the Arizona State Senate. He holds two masters degrees, in Business and Public Administration, and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Composition. J.D. is also a small business owner, investor and consultant.



**House Minority Leader Rebecca Rios** is a fourth generation Arizonan and the daughter of former Arizona Senate President Pete Rios. She earned both her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Social Work from Arizona State University and has worked for over 25 years in the behavioral health and non-profit fields. Rebecca served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1995-2000 and in the Arizona State Senate from 2005-2011. She was reelected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2015 and was assistant minority leader last session. She is married with 3 children and resides in South Phoenix.



**Senate President Steve Yarbrough** has lived in Arizona since 1963. He earned his B.S. in Business in 1968 and graduated with his Juris Doctor from ASU in 1971. Senator Yarbrough has practiced law in Tempe and Chandler for many years and has been the executive director of the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization since 1998. He is married and has three adult sons. He has served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2002-2010 and in the Arizona State Senate since 2010. Before becoming Senate president Senator Yarbrough was chairman of the Senate Finance Committee for four years and then Senate majority leader.



**Senate Minority Leader Katie Hobbs** has served in the Senate since 2012 and also in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2010-2012. She is from Phoenix and has a Bachelor of Social Work from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Social Work from Arizona State University. She has been serving the community as a professional social worker since 1992 and worked on domestic violence, behavioral health, and homelessness issues before coming to the legislature. Senator Hobbs is currently the executive director of Emerge Arizona, a training program for Democratic women seeking public office. She is also married and has two children.

## 2017 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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The Honorable Representative's Name  
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