Breakout Session: Legislative Cycle

Understanding the basics of the Legislative Process

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Outline:

- Legislative Office Structure
- The Legislative Process
- How the Council advocates on behalf of the branch

Legislative Office Structure

Have you ever wondered...

- Who come up with bill ideas?
- Who helps the legislator vote on bills and budget requests?
- How does the Council interact with these individuals?

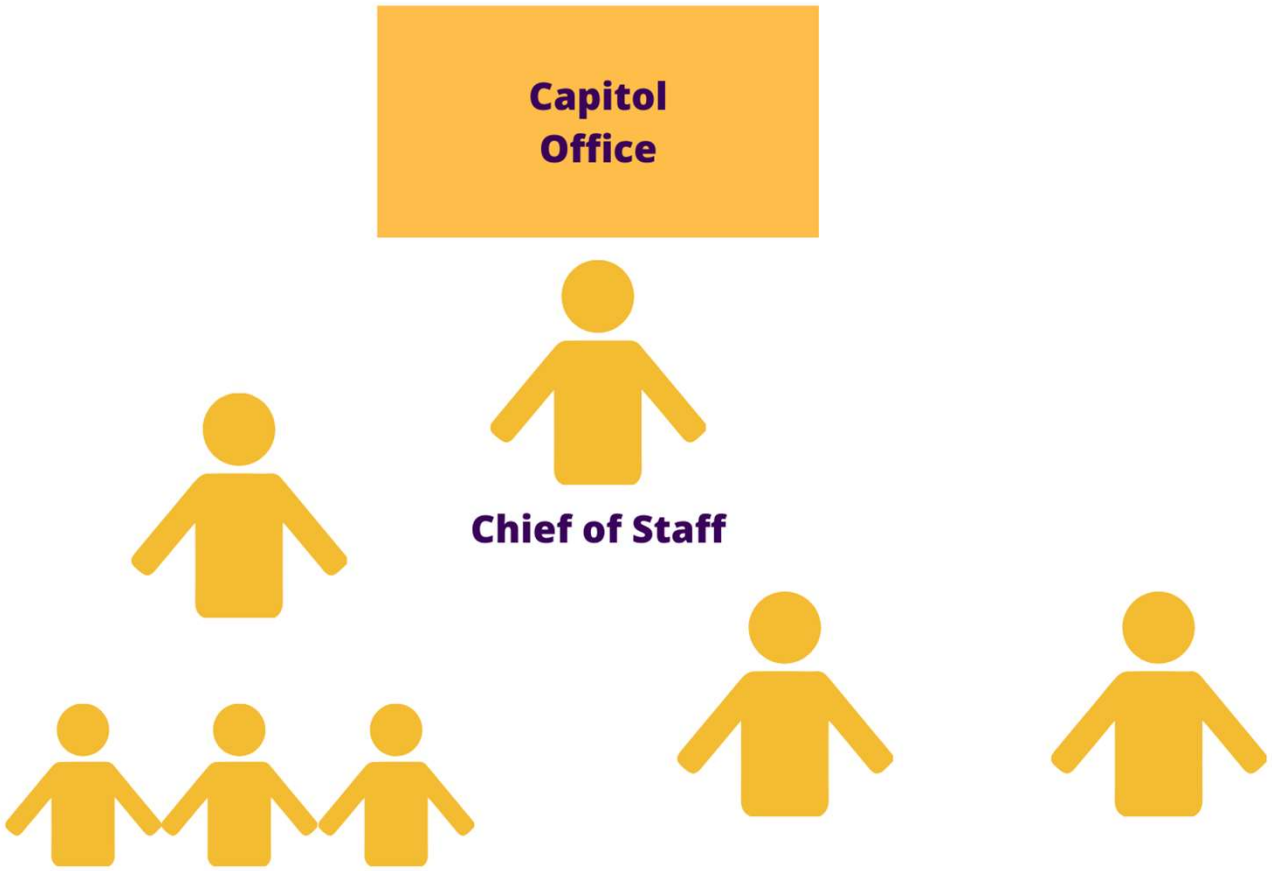
Legislator

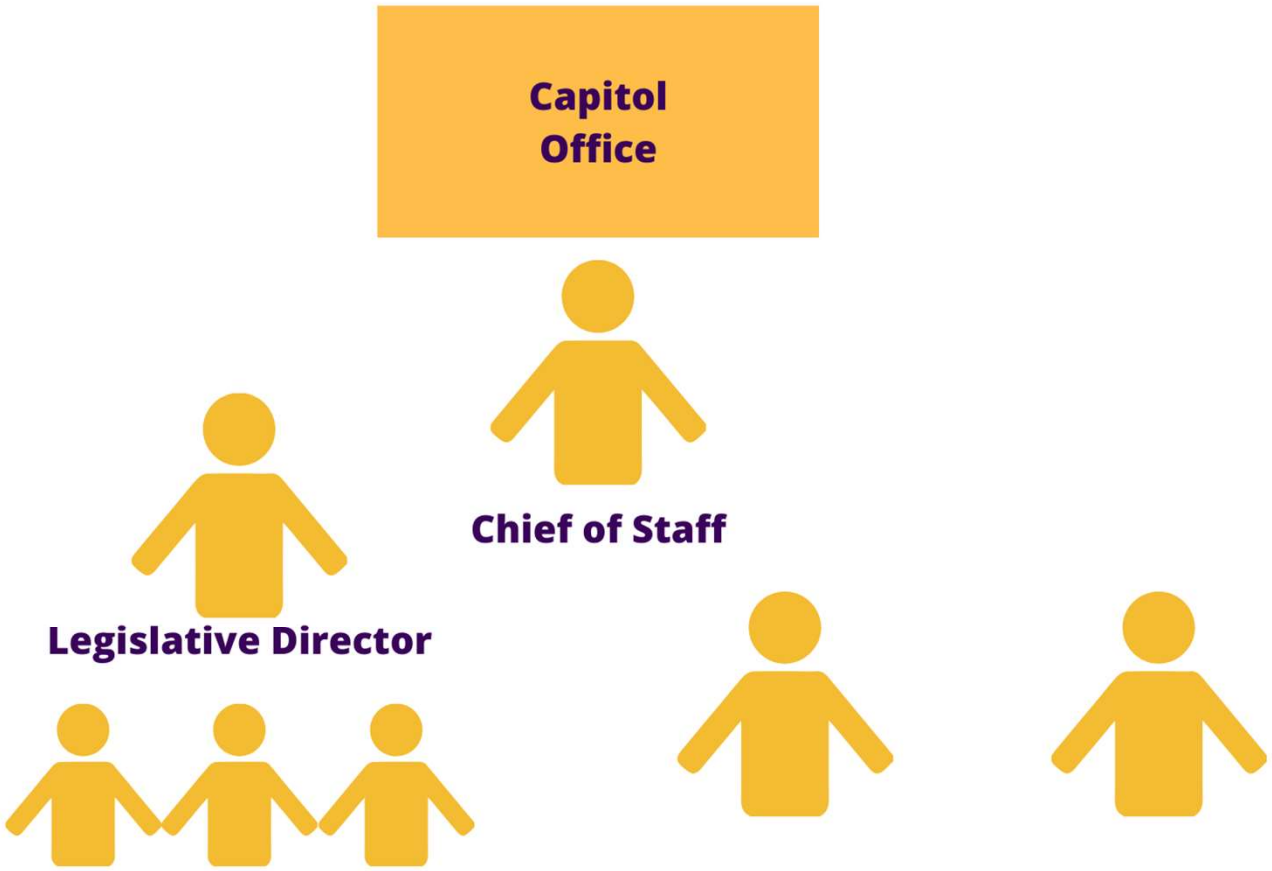
Committee Office

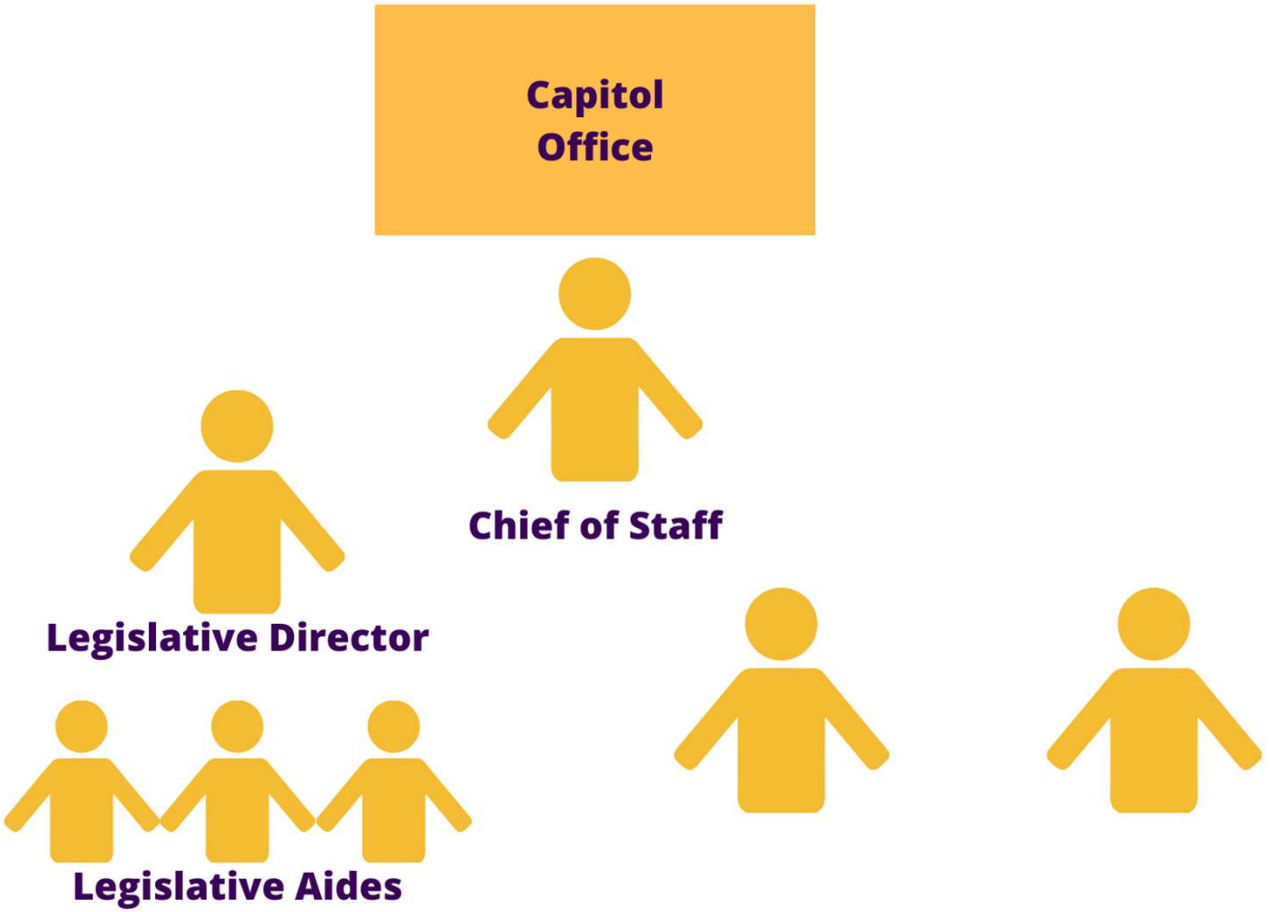
Capitol Office

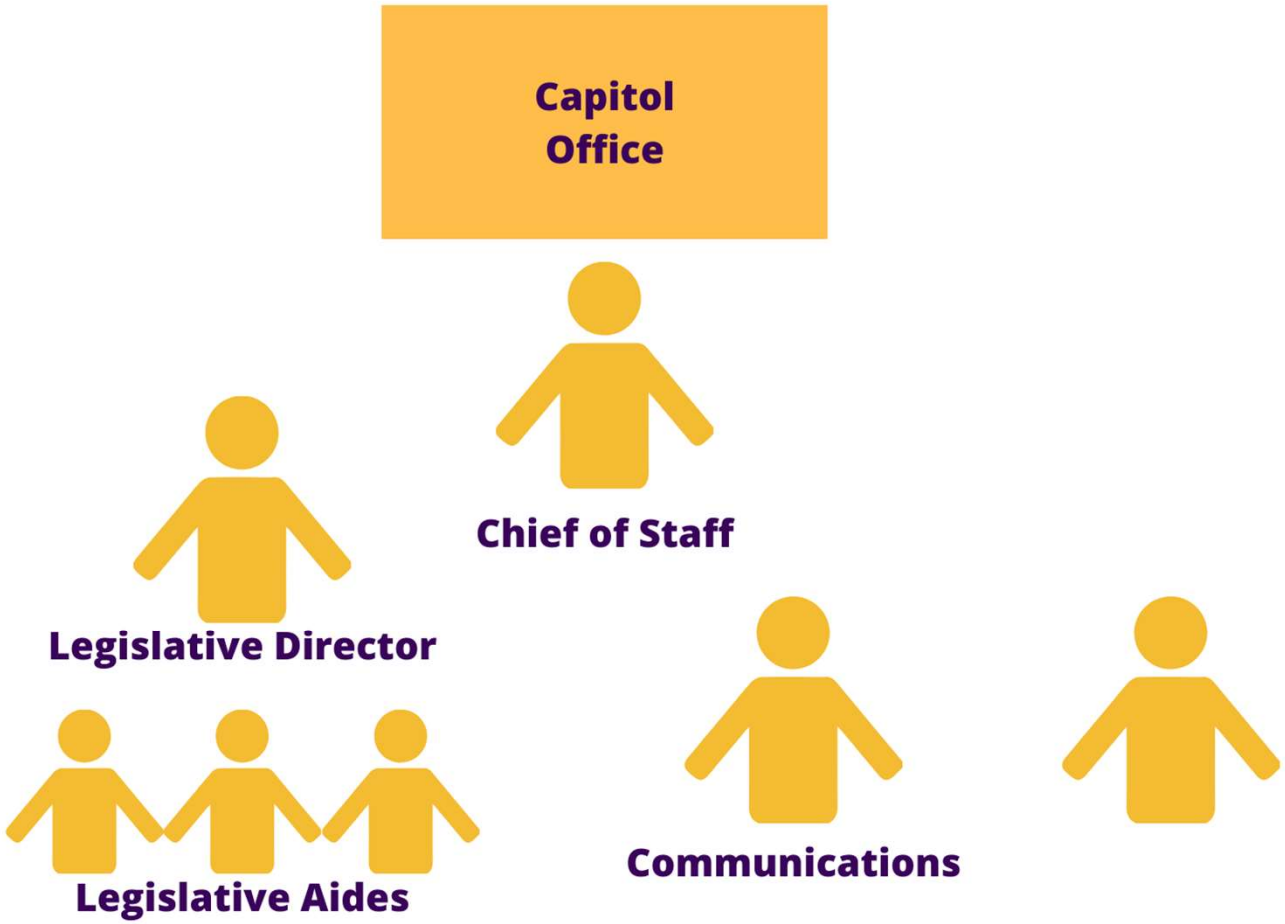
District Office(s)

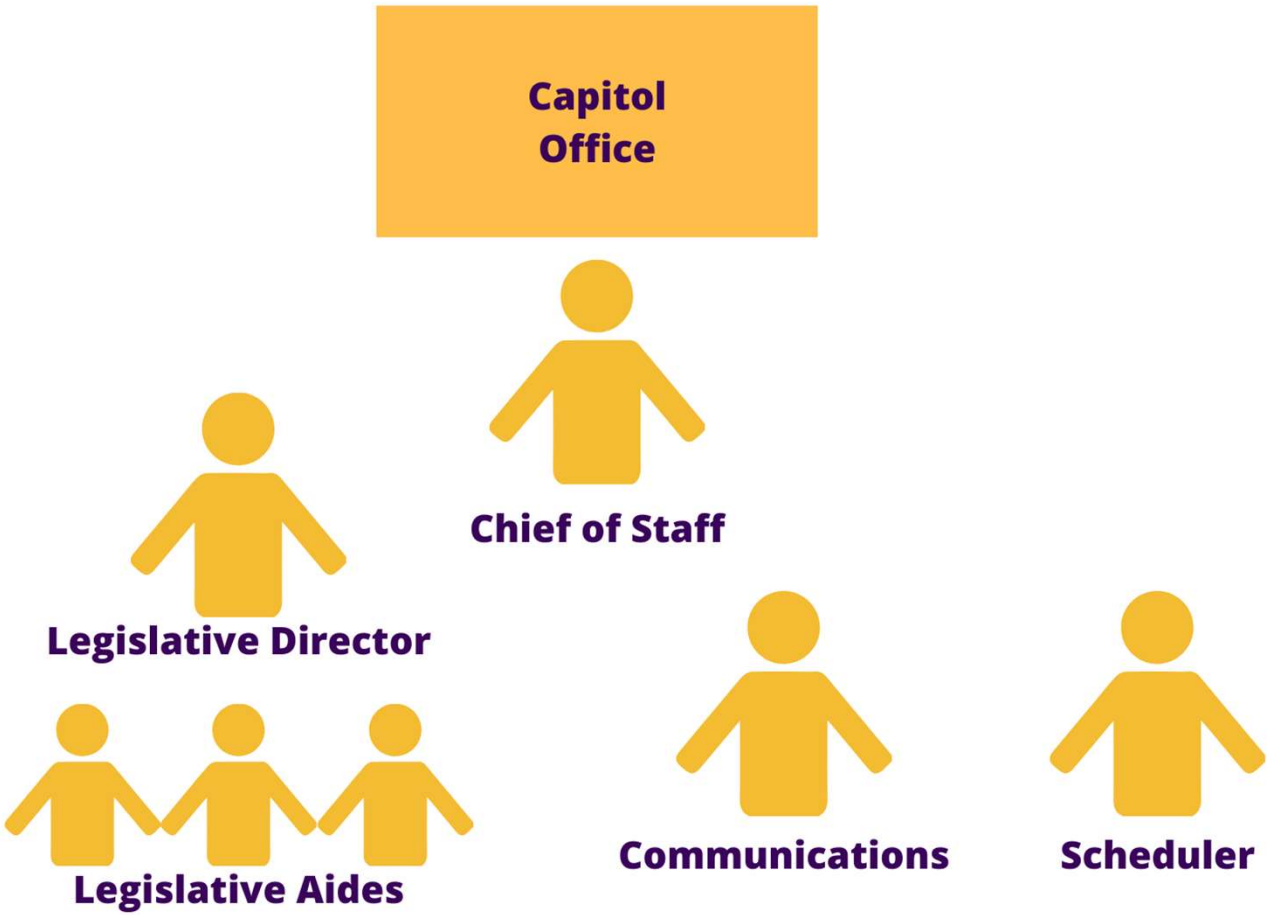
Capitol office staff


Capitol
Office
Chief of Staff


Capitol Office
Chief of Staff
Legislative Director


Capitol Office
Chief of Staff
Legislative Director
Legislative Aides


Capitol Office
Chief of Staff
Legislative Director
Legislative Aides
Communications


Capitol Office
Chief of Staff
Legislative Director
Legislative Aides
Communications
Scheduler

Capitol Office staff typically:

- Review bill ideas that are presented by advocates & stakeholders
- Develop their own bill ideas
- Help the legislator decide what bills to author/carry in their legislative package.
- Review legislation to advise the members if they should vote for or against a bill or budget issue.

Committee office staff

For Democrats: Committee Office

Chief Consultant

Committee Consultants

For Republicans: Caucus Staff

Caucus Consultants

District office staff

District
Office(s)
District Director/Chief of Staff
District Representatives

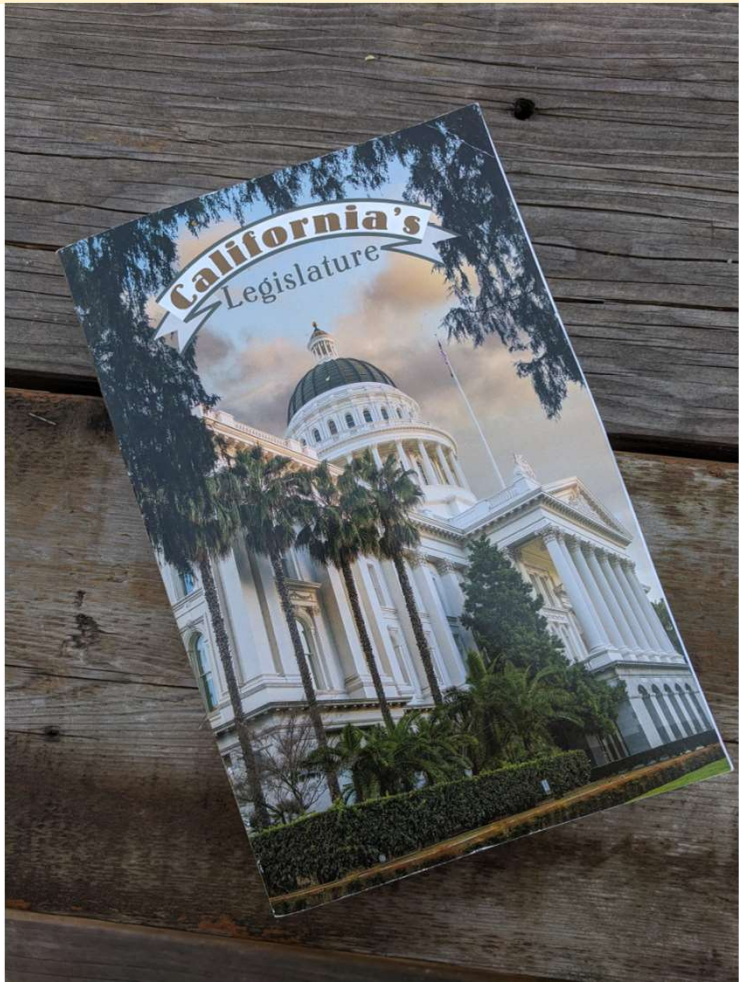
The takeaways:

- Lawmaker's capitol office staff draft bills and are responsible for guiding the bills through the legislative process.
- Committee staff are generally responsible for the policy areas that the bill impacts. They work with stakeholders and the authors office to modify bills to address these concerns.
- District office staff are responsible for constituent case work and addressing issues within the legislator's district.

Legislative Process

Legislative Process

- Legislative calendar
- Senate & Assembly features
- Advocating for the Branch



Legislative Calendar

Legislative Calendar

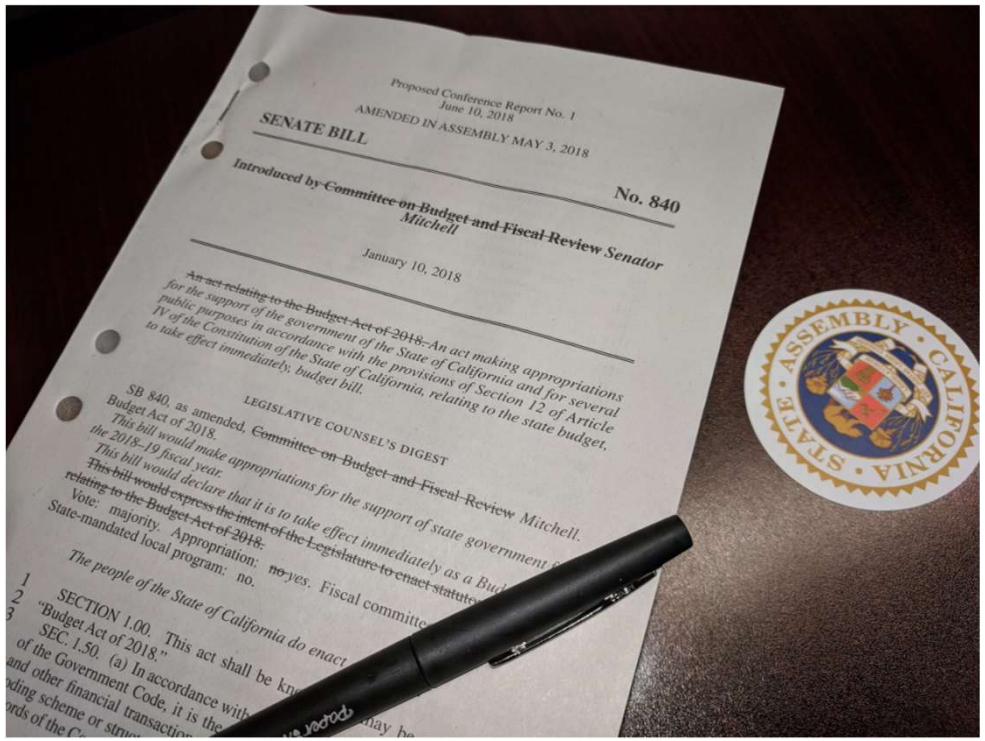
- **Calendar is set annual as required by**
  - **State Constitution**
  - **Legislative Joint Rules**
- **Available:**
  - **On Sen/Asm. Websites**
  - **Daily File**

2020 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR
SECOND YEAR OF BIENNIUM
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY 2019–20 REGULAR CALENDAR—Continued

Jan. 6	—Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
Jan. 10	—Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
Jan. 17	—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. 20	—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
Jan. 24	—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. 17	—Presidents' Day.
Feb. 21	—Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).
Mar. 27	—Cesar Chavez Day observed.
Apr. 2	—**Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
Apr. 13	—Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
Apr. 24	—Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).
May 1	—Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
May 8	—Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
May 15	—Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
May 25	—Memorial Day.
May 26-29	—**Floor session only**. No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
May 29	—Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house. (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
June 1	—Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).

Legislative Calendar

- **Jan-Feb:** bill introductions



Legislative Calendar

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- **Mar-May**: Committee hearings

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Image credit: Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, 9/30/2019

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- **Aug-Sept:** End of session
- **Sept-Oct:** Governor signs bills
- **Sept-Dec:** Legislative recess

Special notes about 2nd year of session:

- 2-year bills left over from the first year
- Bills die in the second year; must be reintroduced in next session
- Recess during election years

The Senate & Assembly

Size of each house and district

SENATE

40 members

950,000 Constituents

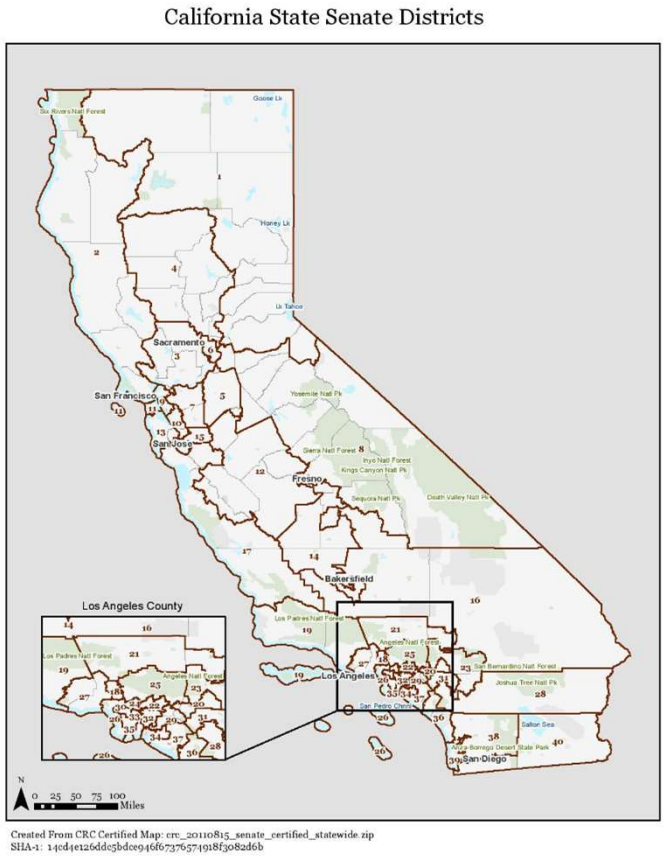
ASSEMBLY

80 members

475,000 Constituents

District boundaries: then & now

- **Senate:** Prior to 1964 were divided by county; a court decision (*Reynolds v. Sims*) changed districts to population-based
- **Lines:** used to be drawn by legislators; now drawn by Citizens' Redistricting Commission
- **2020 Census:** Will result in new district lines



Terms & Term Limits

SENATE

4 year term

3 terms total

ASSEMBLY

2 year terms

6 terms total

Power Difference

- Senate Confirming powers
    - Senate has the authority to confirm the Governor’s appointments
    - Performed by Senate Rules Committee.
    - Majority of Governor’s appointments are approve.

House and Caucus Leadership

SENATE

President pro Tempore

Republican (Minority) Leader

ASSEMBLY

Speaker of the Assembly

Republican (Minority) Leader

The takeaways:

- Bills must pass certain legislative calendar deadlines.
- All bills ‘die’ at the end of the 2nd year
- Differences between Senate and Assembly
- Legislative leadership positions

Advocating for the Branch to Lawmakers and Staff

Audience

Legislators and staffer concerns:

- **Constituents**
- **Influential people**
- **Organizations**
- **Political concerns**

Advocacy

How will the bill impact the courts:

- Mission
- Case types
- Funding
- Countering
- Follow-up

Fiscal impact of a bill

- Understand impacts to workload and operations
- Use relevant data and cost model to develop estimate.
- Back up with relevant examples
- Ensure estimate is in line with similar bills.
- Defensible

The takeaways:

- Engaging with the legislature does not guarantee that they will appreciate the branch's concerns on a bill.

- Positive interactions should lead to legislator's and staff who are more aware of our issues, and helps build long-term relationships.

Thank You