Policymaking basics

Becky Carroll

Tara Britton
What is public policy?
Separation of power

legislative

executive

judicial
State government organization

Citizens of Ohio

- Legislative
  - Senate
  - House of Representatives

- Executive
  - Governor
  - State Agencies

- Judicial
  - Ohio Supreme Court
Policy levers
Types of policy levers

• Taxes, fees and disincentives
• Subsidies and incentives
• Budgets, grants, contracts, etc.
• Regulations
  • Setting standards and requirements
  • Monitoring and evaluation
  • Enforcing existing regulations
  • Deregulating
• Information and education
133rd General Assembly

House

Sen. Larry Obhof
Senate President

Sen. Kenny Yuko
Minority Leader

Sen. Larry Obhof
Senate President

Sen. Kenny Yuko
Minority Leader

Rep. Larry Householder
Speaker

Rep. Emilia Sykes
Minority Leader

61 Republicans
38 Democrats

24 Republicans
9 Democrats
How is legislation created and enacted?

Policy idea → Bill → Law
Standing committees and subcommittees
133rd General Assembly

House
- Aging and Long Term Care
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
- Civil Justice
- Commerce and Labor
- Criminal Justice
  - Criminal Justice Subcommittee on Criminal Sentencing
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Energy and Natural Resources
  - Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation
- Federalism
- Finance
  - Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources
  - Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
  - Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education
  - Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education
  - Finance Subcommittee on Transportation
- Financial Institutions
- Health
- Higher Education
- Insurance
- Primary and Secondary Education
- Public Utilities
- Rules and Reference
- State and Local Government
- Transportation and Public Safety
- Way and Means

Senate
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Education
- Energy and Public Utilities
- Finance
  - Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid
  - Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education
- General Government and Agency Review
- Government Oversight and Reform
- Health, Human Services and Medicaid
- Higher Education
- Insurance and Financial Institutions
- Judiciary
- Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
- Rules and Reference
- Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
- Ways and Means

A current list of committees can be found on the Ohio House and Ohio Senate websites.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Governor’s proposed budget introduced in the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>House passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May/June</td>
<td>Senate passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Conference committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Governor signs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“It’s a marathon, not a sprint.”
Engagement in the Policymaking Process
Ways to Engage in Policymaking

• Connect with legislators based on issue areas of interest
• Offer testimony
• Connect with fellow stakeholders
• Follow legislation through the committee hearing process
Why Advocate?

- Service is not enough
- Government policies affect everyone
- Government controls funding for important services
- Policymakers care about and need your expertise
Public Policy Activities

Education
(being a resource)

Advocacy
(working on issues)

Lobbying
(working on bills)
Advocacy Definition

• Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy
• Advocacy is used in the promotion of a cause or principle, often times that lead to a selected goal
• Advocacy is *just one way* to approach a problem
• Advocacy does not necessarily involve confrontation or conflict
Lobbying

• Working to influence the outcome of a specific piece of legislation or executive agency decision

• Two types of lobbying:
  • Direct lobbying - you interact with the decision maker
  • Grassroots lobbying - you encourage others to interact with the decision maker

• Lobbying is a legal term defined by IRS regulations and state and federal law

• Money spent on lobbying needs to be tracked and there are limits on how much you can spend
Engaging with Policymakers

• Learn who represents you at the Statehouse: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/find-my-legislators

• Stay up to date on legislation by connecting with pertinent committee chairs’ offices

• Make the most of meetings (in-district and in Columbus)
Find Your Legislator
Personal Phone Call

• Don’t expect to speak to the legislator
• Be pleasant to the staff (ask for the name of person you’re speaking with)
• Let them know if you are a constituent (phone ID can tell them that already)
• Try to sound like yourself
• Know your expertise/What gives you credibility?
• Keep it short
• Be a good listener
• Have a clear “ask”
Personal Letter

• Personalize the letter
• Relate your experiences
• Keep it short
• Address one issue
• Hand written is preferred
• Always include your home address
• Always ask for a reply
Personal Email

- Oftentimes the legislature, both state and federal, move faster than snail mail.
- Sometimes a letter won’t be received until well after the bill has passed (or failed).
- Personal e-mails are preferred to form letter style emails
Personal Visit

• Schedule meeting in advance
• Schedule meeting with legislator and other constituents if possible
• Dress appropriately
• Be on time, early if possible (but don’t be surprise if you have to wait)
• Start with compliment and thank them first
• State briefly, clearly, and concisely what issue(s) you want to discuss
• Personalize the issue
• Be a good listener
• Have a clear “ask”
• Invite legislator to visit your organization
Testifying Basics

• Although testifying in person is most effective, it’s not always possible.
  • Testifying in person in Columbus isn’t always the easiest thing to do when committees take place in the middle of the week during the day.

• You can always testify written-only if you cannot make it in person

• E-mail your testimony (written or in-person) at least 24 hours in advance to the Committee Chair

• Give your policymakers a heads up that you will be in the Capitol. Their office may give you parking tips, directions and testimony examples. You can also schedule a Statehouse tour

• Witness slips
Social Media

• Don’t be afraid to talk to legislators via social media
• Tag them in posts to start conversation or to inform
• Encourage your followers to share or retweet your posts or to talk to legislators directly
• Use graphics, tables, photos or video to accentuate your points
Committee Notice

Ohio House of Representatives

Committee Schedule
Week of September 30, 2019

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Ways and Means
10:00 a.m., Room 116, Vice Chair: Lipps
S.B. 26 Komor – 1st Hearing – PV
Permission for tax deduction for certain teacher expenses
H.B. 17 Ginter – 2nd Hearing, Pro
Enhance homestead exemption for police officer
H.B. 197 Powell, Merrin – 2nd Hearing, Pro
Make technical and corrective changes to tax law

Health
11:00 a.m., Room 116, Chair: Merrin
H.B. 243 Weinstein, Russo – 1st Hearing, Sponsor – PS
Require health insurance to cover hearing aids

Transportation and Public Safety
11:00 a.m., Room 114, Chair: Gross
H.B. 202 Smith, K., Weinstein – 4th Hearing, Pro, Opp, IP, PV
Establishes Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study Committee
H.B. 205 Greenspan, Bruegg – 2nd Hearing, Opp
Establish Driver’s License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction Prog.
H.B. 295 Hoops – 2nd Hearing, Pro
Establish requirements for low-speed electric scooters
H.B. 313 Plumer, S. – 1st Hearing, Sponsor, Pro, Opp, IP, PV
Create Ohio Daughters of American Revolution license plate

Rules and Reference
12:00 p.m., Room 119, Chair: Speaker Housholder

Civil Justice
3:00 p.m., Room 018, Chair: Hambley
H.C.C.R. 13 West, Caresathers – 1st Hearing, Sponsor
Encourage equity and diversity in Ohio corporate government
H.B. 288 Manning, D. – 4th Hearing, Pro, Opp, IP, PA
Amend eminent domain laws

Primary and Secondary Education
5:00 p.m., Room 121, Chair: Blessing
H.B. 310 Greenspan – 1st Hearing, Sponsor – PS
Enacts Anti-Bullying and Harass Act
H.B. 336 Sebecki, Robinson – 1st Hearing, Sponsor
Reinstates the Joint Education Oversight Committee
Bill and Bill Analysis

House Bill 11

General Assembly
133

Short Title
Regards tobacco cessation and prenatal initiatives

Version
As Passed by the House

Legislation Text
View Current Version

Subjects
- Commerce : Insurance
- Health and Human Services : Health Care
- Health and Human Services : Medicaid

Committees
- Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
- House Finance Committee
- House Rules and Reference Committee
- House Health Committee