CALIFORNIA
Efficiency + Demand Management
COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

Bicameral (two chambers): Assembly and Senate

- Assembly: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/
  - 80 Assembly Districts, each served by one Assemblymember for two-year terms
- Senate Website: https://www.senate.ca.gov/
  - 40 Senate Districts, each served by one Senator for four-year terms (staggered)
- Legislators are limited to a total of 12 years of service.
- Legislative districts are redistricted following every national census.
  - The newest Legislative District Map: https://gis.data.ca.gov/maps/CDEGIS::legislative-districts-in-california/explore?location=37.403303%2C-119.236700%2C5.96

Full-Time and Biennial: The Legislature convenes its regular session on the first Monday of December in each even-numbered year and must adjourn by November 30th of the following even-numbered year. There are recesses and adjournments within each two-year session.

- E.g.: The 2021 session began December 2020, adjourned September 2021, reconvened in January 2022, and will adjourn in August 2022.
- Also, the governor may call special sessions of the Legislature.

Session Calendars: Throughout each legislative session, Legislators have deadlines their bills must meet to continue through the legislative process, some exceptions apply.

- Assembly calendar: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/legislativedeadlines
- Senate calendar: https://www.senate.ca.gov/legdeadlines

Process of a (Successful) Bill: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bil2lawx.html

- Bill language is introduced by a Legislator at the Senate/Assembly “Desk”, where it is assigned a number and “read” for the first time.
- The bill is assigned to a policy committee (where policy and substance are considered) by the Rules Committee and cannot receive a hearing in its policy committee until 30 days have passed from the bill’s introduction.
- The bill receives a hearing in its policy committee where the author (or designee of the author) speaks to the bill and the opportunity for testimony (in support and opposition) and questions from Committee members are provided.
- The bill is either voted out of committee or amended and voted out of committee.
- *If there is a fiscal impact - the bill is sent to a fiscal committee where a similar process as above occurs with a focus on fiscal impacts rather than policy and substance.*
- The bill is called to the Floor where it is debated, potentially amended, and voted out of the House of Origin.
- The bill repeats the process in the second house.
- *If a bill was amended in the second house, it must return to the house of origin for*

concurrence (legislators agree to the changes that were made in the second house). If the house of origin legislators do not agree, the bill is referred to a two house conference committee to resolve differences. If a compromise is reached, the bill is returned to both house Floors for a vote.

- The bill is sent to the Governor to sign it into law, do not sign it (where the bill becomes law anyways - just without signature), or veto the bill.
    - *If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Legislature may override the veto with a supermajority.*
- The bill is assigned a chapter number by the Secretary of State and then becomes part of the California Codes.

Budget Process (annual):
https://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/the_budget_process.pdf

- **July 1**: Fiscal year begins
- **July - September**: Department directors and agency heads review and develop budget proposals for their programs. The Dept. of Finance reviews.
- **October - January**: The Governor evaluates requests.
- **January 10**: Governor must submit a balanced budget proposal to Legislature
- **January - February**: Budget Committee Chairs introduce the budget in bill form. The Legislative Analyst's Office reviews budget bills and provides reports.
- **March - May**: Budget bills are split by subject and assigned to subcommittees, which conduct hearings, vote, and report to the full budget committee.
- **May 14**: Governor submits updated revenue forecast and budget proposal (this is known as the "May Revise")
- **Mid-May - Mid-June**: Budget committees consider subcommittee reports and send revised budget bills to their respective chamber floors.
- **June 15**: Legislature must pass a budget
- **June 30**: Governor signs the budget and any associated trailer bills into law

Additional Resources:

- In-depth legislative resources: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html
- Bill Info: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml
- Glossary of legislative terms: https://www.senate.ca.gov/glossary
- Daily files:
    - Assembly: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/dailyfile/pdfpublications
    - Senate: https://www.senate.ca.gov/dailyfile
- Committee lookup:
    - Assembly: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/committees
    - Senate: https://www.senate.ca.gov/committees
- Member lookup:
    - Assembly: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers
    - Senate: https://www.senate.ca.gov/senators
- Events calendar (where you can track Committee, Floor, and other actions):
    - Assembly: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/todaysevents
    - Senate: https://www.senate.ca.gov/calendar
- Media (live or archived coverage of legislative actions):
    - Assembly: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/audioandtv
    - Senate: https://www.senate.ca.gov/media
- Twitter is always an important resource. Consider starting with #CALeg