

# Speak Up for Public Policy & Systems Advocacy



# Agenda

- Who are policymakers
- Key points in the spring session to speak up
- Why and how it is important to create relationships with legislators
- Top Policy Issues we expect for the 2020 Legislative Session
- Get involved!

# What is Public Policy?

Public policy is how a government meets the needs of its people

- Actions
- Funding priorities
- Laws
- Regulations

# Who Creates Public Policy?

Elected officials create public policy but Advocates can help!

Elected officials are also called

- Policy makers
- Legislators
- Decision makers

# Illinois Elected Officials



JB Pritzker  
Governor



Juliana Stratton  
Lt Governor



# Illinois State Legislature

# Illinois Representatives and Senators

118 **House** Members

➤ New: 30

59 **Senators**

➤ New: 12



**BIG  
CHANGES!**



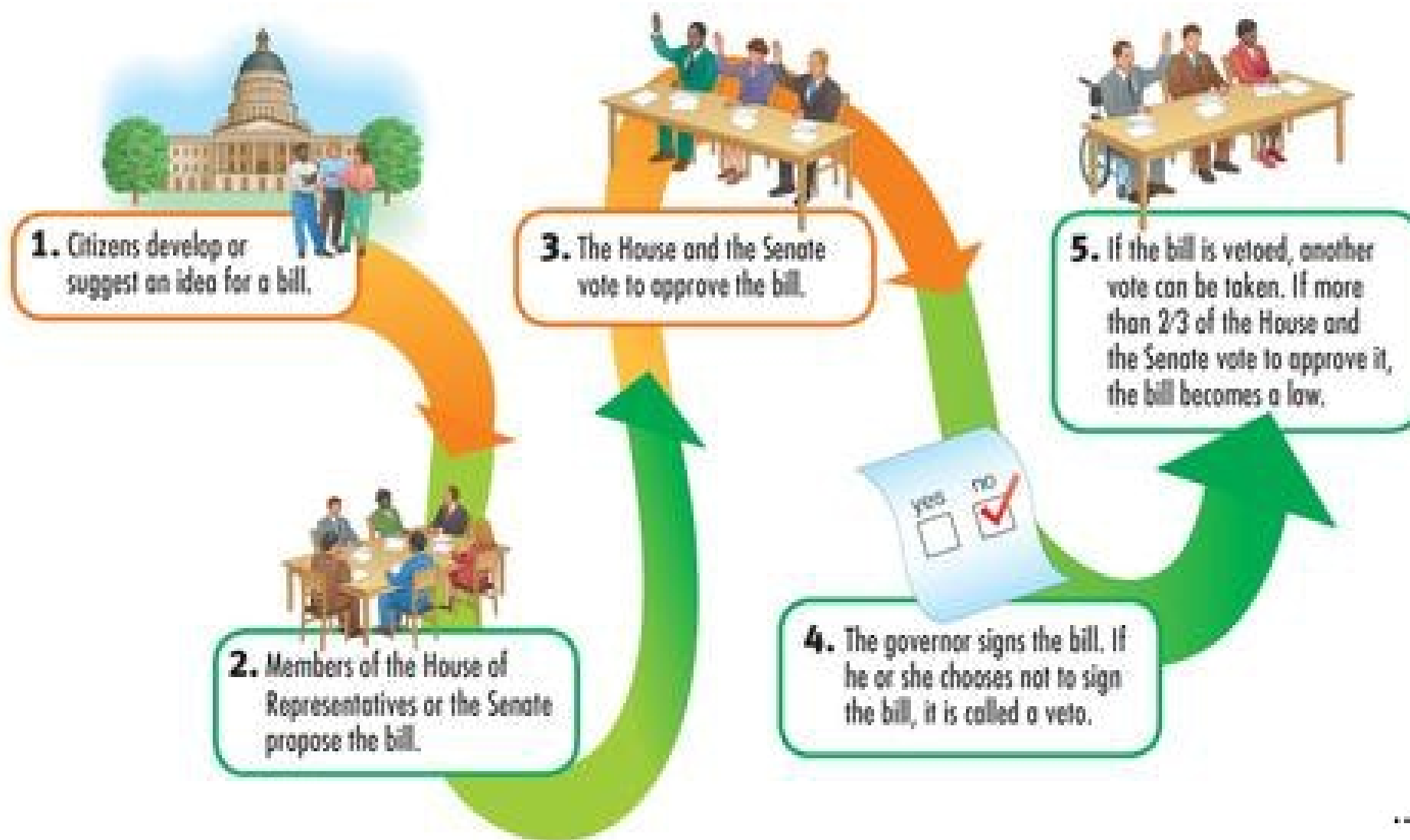
# 2020 Election



# We Must Advocate To:

- Change how Illinois spends its money
- Increase funding for what you care about
- Make sure you get the supports to do the things YOU want to do.

# How a Bill Becomes a Law



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# Specifically:

- ✓ \*Identify Ideas??
- ✓ Write the Bill (LRB).
- ✓ \*Find Sponsor(s).
- ✓ File the Bill. (House and/or Senate)
- ✓ Bill is introduced.
- ✓ \*Submit Witness Slip. Give Testimony. Observe.
- ✓ Vote on Bill.
- ✓ Bill moves to Other Chamber.
- ✓ \*Submit Witness Slip. Give Testimony. Observe.
- ✓ Other Chamber Votes on Bill.
- ✓ Bill Sent to Governor.
- ✓ Governor

# Budget Is Slightly Different

- In **September** of the year preceding the start of the new fiscal year, the [governor](#) sends budget instructions to state agencies.
- In **October** and **November**, agencies submit their budget requests to the governor.
- Budget hearings with the public are held from **February** through **May**.
- On the third Wednesday in **February**, the governor submits his or her proposed budget to the [Illinois General Assembly](#).
- The General Assembly passes a budget in **May**.

# Witness Slips – How to Find Them

- Go to [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) and searching for the Senate or House bill.
- Once you have determined which committee will consider the legislation, go back to the homepage of [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) and click “GA Dashboard” under “Reports and Inquiry” in the middle column. Or <http://my.ilga.gov/>.
- How to guide: <http://www.senatorsteans.com/constituent-resources/how-to-submit-a-witness-slip>

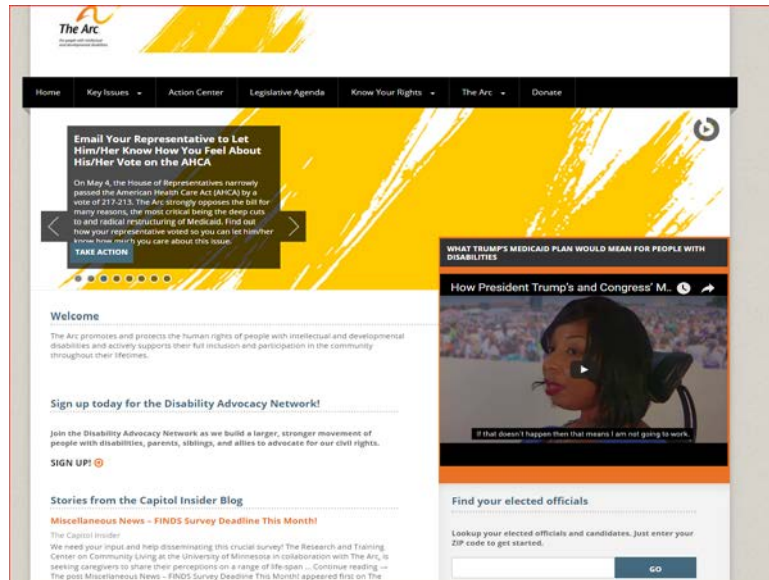
# Witness Slips – How to Fill Them Out

- To submit your own witness slip, go to <http://my.ilga.gov/> and click “Create Witness Slip” in the right column of the legislation that interests you.
- Enter your information, the names of the groups or firms you represent and your position (support or oppose) on the legislation.
- “What type of testimony you’d like to submit.”
  - “Record of Appearance Only”
  - “Oral”
  - “Written statement filed” – It is your responsibility to get a copy of your written statement to the chairman or chairwoman of that committee.
- Once you have completed the required information, click “Create (Slip)” at the bottom of the page.

# How to Track a Bill

- The first step is to identify which legislation you are interested in supporting or opposing, then finding out which committee will hear it. You can do that by going to [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) and searching for the Senate or House bill.
- Left hand side – search the bill number
- Top bar – search under House and Senate for committee schedules and if you want to listen to a committee hearing.

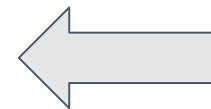
# How do I find my legislators?



Go to

<http://cqrcengage.com/thearc/?6>

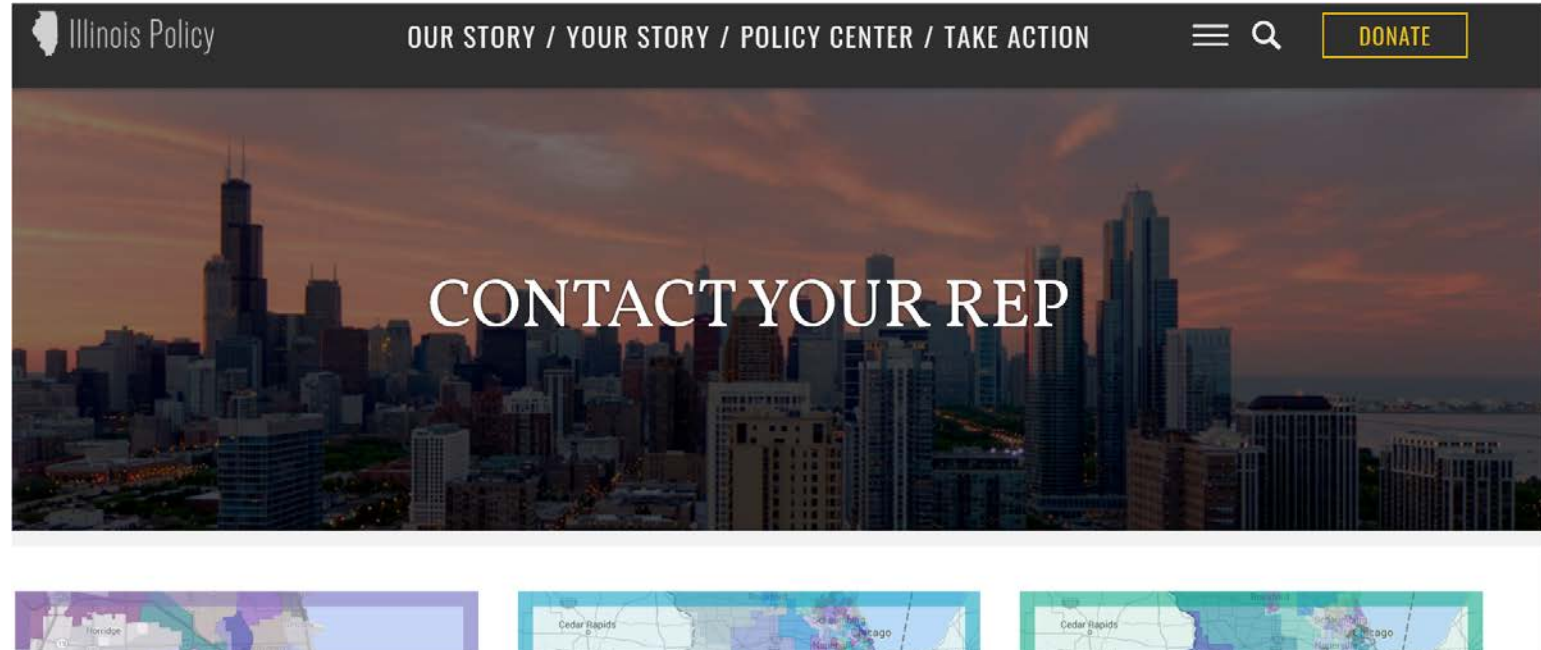
Plug in your zipcode and a list of your Federal, State, and Local representatives will come up.





# *Finding Your Legislators*

- You can also look at: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/>




# Prepare to Talk to Legislators:

1. Tell them who you are, that you are constituent
2. What your issue of concern is and how they might help
3. Make the ask – ask them to support your issue, work with you or keep talking to you about it



# Tips to Remember



*My Voice,  
My Choice*

1. Always be polite.
2. Say thank you.
3. Be prepared and keep your story straight.
4. Never make up an answer.
5. Expect to have 10-15 minutes only.
6. Be patient.
7. Ask how you can help them.

# Top 2020 Public Policy Issues

- Investment in Community Living
  - Address the staff crisis by getting wages above minimum wage
  - Increase rates for more individualized services and supports in the community
- Employment
  - Subminimum wage
  - Additional investments – customized employment, supported employment
  - Transportation
- Education
  - Seclusion and Restraint
  - Transition age youth

- Supported Decision making – Guardianship and Advocacy
- PUNS waiting list
- Systems transformation
  - Fiscally responsible spending of dollars
  - Universal assessments and person centered plans for all people with I/DD regardless of where they live
  - Implementation of the HCBS settings rule
- Assistive Technology
- ❖ Other regulatory/administrative changes
- ❖ Implementation of previous year's bills (criminal justice task force, customized employment pilot, funding diversion homes)

# Federal Public Policy Issues

- Budget
- Income and asset limits
- Money Follows the Person
- Employment – subminimum wage
- Food stamps and other benefits

# Join Us In Advocacy!

- The Arc of Illinois – action alerts
  - Stories or to Lead - Connect with [meg@thearcofil.org](mailto:meg@thearcofil.org)
- Wages - They Deserve More – [www.theydeservemore](http://www.theydeservemore)
  - Looking for people willing to share stories
- Going Home Coalition – [www.goinghomecoalition.org](http://www.goinghomecoalition.org)
  - Community First Campaign - [Nafia@thearcofil.org](mailto:Nafia@thearcofil.org)
  - April Rally – Date to follow

# *Become a Member!*

## *Join The Arc Family*

- **Make your voice heard** - Advocate with us for policy change, funding and legislation.
- **Be a part of community** - Get support and learn from other families.
- **Access resources when you need them** - Gain valuable online and program resources.
- **Learn and network** - Receive discounts on training and conferences.
- **Connect to The Arc of the United States** - Join a national network, and get news and resources from across the US.
- **Make a difference** - Be a part of protecting rights and advocate for improved services.



# *Call to Action: What will YOU do within 24 hours?*

- For Yourself?
- For Your Family?
- For Your Community?

# *Thank You & Questions*

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