

**Tracking Legislation &
Issues:
*How To Be an Effective Legislation
Chairman***

***Republican Women of California – San
Diego Leadership Workshop 2022***

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Why Legislation?

- **Voter education**
 - Information on candidates and issues
 - GOTV - Getting voters to actually vote

- **Activism**
 - Influencing legislators
 - Influencing veto actions
 - Influencing other actors and organizations

Responsibilities

- 1) Report on and inform Club membership about important legislation (or issues) or upcoming legislative votes at the Club's monthly meeting.

NOTE: If legislation/activism is not on the agenda at your Club's meetings, please, please, please ask for time on the program.

- 2) Submit a legislative/issues article to the Club's monthly newsletter.
- 3) Work with the President/Corresponding Secretary to forward email blasts to membership regarding taking action on pending legislation.
- 4) Continually emphasize for membership the importance of keeping informed and taking action. (2% victories)

At your fingertips . . .

With all the Internet resources available, almost everything you need can be found on legislativewebsites, including things like:

- **A list of members--including districts, contact info, committees, etc.**
- **Access to any bill that has been filed**
- **List of committees: their web sites, meeting dates and members, plus bills in committee**
- **Daily agendas, for committees and sessions**
- **General Statutes**
- **Rules of the legislative houses**
- **Live audio and sometimes video of committee meetings and floor sessions**
- **District maps**
- **California's Constitution**
- **Bill tracking features**

Some are more-user friendly than others and familiarity will come with frequent use.

Federal legislation – House and Senate/ Majority Leader/Speaker; Committees/Subcommittees; Gov't agencies

- ***Congress.gov*** – official government site
- ***Congress.org*** -- sign up for *MegaVote* to get “How Your Legislator Voted” on important bills
- ***Govtrack.us*** – sign up at “Status of Bills” (by bill number) to receive reports on a bill’s progress and/or search legislators’ voting records.
- **MoC’s** email newsletters (sign up)
- Some **Congressional Committees** have their own newsletters, web sites, and updates, i.e., the Senate Judicial Committee
- ***Whitehouse.gov*** – administration positions, signing information (sign up)
- ***Scotusblog.com; Supremecourt.gov*** – schedule, cases, decisions

California Senate

- **40 Senators**
- **31 Democrats**
- **9 Republicans**
- Each Senator represents 931,349 Californians. On each Senator's home page you will find contact information, Capitol and District addresses and phone numbers, a map of the district, the Member's biography, a list of all the legislation authored by that Senator, his/her committee memberships, press releases and other publications, district links, and more.
- **senate.ca.gov**

California Assembly

- **Current Membership (80):**
- **60 Democrats**
- **19 Republicans**
- **1 Independent**
- Each Assembly Member represents approximately 420,000 Californians. On each Member's Home Page you will find email address, Capitol and District addresses and phone numbers, the Member's biography, a list of all the legislation authored by that Assembly Member, committee memberships, press releases and other publications, district links, and more.
- **assembly.ca.gov**

State Legislation – Governor CA Senate & Assembly; Propositions

- ***Gov.ca.gov*** --Governor
- ***Leginfo.legislature.ca.gov*** – CA Assembly and Senate
- **Senators/Assembly Members'** – *web sites/email updates*
- ***Sos.ca.gov*** - *elections/candidate information/initiativemeasures/petition status*
- ***Flashreport.org*** – *unfiltered roundup of CA state news w/ GOPperspective*
- ***CAPoliticalReview.org*** – *conservative blog by Steve Frank*

Traditional Media Sources: TV/Radio/Newspapers

- *C-Span 1 – House of Representatives live floor coverage*
- *C-Span 2 – US Senate live floor coverage*
- *OAN (One American News)*
- *Fox News (becoming marginal)*
- **KOGO AM 600 Radio - “The DeMaio Report”
(especially for state and local issues)**
- *San Diego Union-Tribune – sandiegouniontribune.com*
- *Wall Street Journal – wsj.com*
- *USAToday – usatoday.com*

* Additional sources can be found on the last page.

Online Organizations/Interest Groups

National

- Judicialwatch.org – blog; print newsletter
- NRA.org (2nd Amendment) or any single issue site
- CR TV (Mark Levin)
- Bongino.com (link to Dan Bongino's pod casts)

California

- HJTA.org, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – web site; alerts
- Reformcalifornia.org – web site
- LivableCalifornia.org

The Other Side

- **Indivisible.com**
- **MoveOn.org**
- **Sandiegofreepress.org (San Diego County area)**

Evaluating Legislation

- **Who is proposing the bill? What officials/groups support or oppose the bill?**
- **Does this bill require additional government funding?**
- **Does this bill support local control of a situation or does it give more power to the government (bureaucracy)? Could a lower level of government address the problem?**
- **What specific power (admin, regulatory, enforcement) does this bill give to a governmental agency; which agency?**
- **Does this bill attack the source of a problem or merely put a Band-Aid on the symptom? Does it duplicate services?**
- **Does this bill strengthen the family, promote or discourage savings and investment?**
- **And perhaps most importantly, is it constitutional?**

Researching Legislation

- **Get a clear understanding of the issue, the legislative process involved in its passage, and the most effective way to proceed for or against the legislation.**
- **Recommended search engine: *Startpage.com*.**
- **Recommended all-round site on legislation and elections, both federal and state levels:**

***Ballotpedia.org* – a comprehensive (but not completely objective) source for legislation news. Signup for updates.**
- **In reports, name your sources whenever possible, e.g., *Source: ballotpedia.org*.**

Contact—getting active!

- Telephone your reps— nothing is more immediate
- Fax, now touted as very effective
- Personal visit to legislator's office
- Email – Issue-by-issue, an imminent vote, or “Three-a-day”?
- “Snail mail” letters – often delayed for securitycheck

Action Alerts

If you are asking your members (usually an email “action alert”) to contact legislators about a bill, be sure to include everything they need to be effective:

- **web address(es) or phone number(s), see EO’s Contact Information page**
- **number of the bill (if appropriate)**
- **position taken and why (talking points, if appropriate)**
- **sample messages (if time)**
- **follow-up if possible: Did it pass? Etc.**

E-mail Contact with Officials

- **Most if not all legislators/officials must be emailed through their “Contact” web page form.**
- **Go to their web site; click on “Contact” or “Contact Me.”**
(Note: All citizens can contact US Senators;
only constituents can contact House members.)
- **Once you have filled out a web form, *your* information will automatically populate any other forms you want to complete.**

I want to hear from you.

None ▾	First Name*	Last Name*
Street Address*	Street Address cont.	
City*	CA ▾	Zip*
Email Address*	Phone Number*	
Subject*		
Issues* ▾		

Please type your message.

Email Address Patterns

- **Federal level**

Senators: *lastname.senate.gov*

Representatives: *lastname.house.gov*

- **CA State level:**

- **Senate Tony Atkins (D), *sd39.senate.ca.gov*;**

- **Assembly Christopher M.Ward (D), *a78.asmdc.org***

- **Assembly Brian Maienschein (D), *a77.asmdc.org***

2022 Legislative Topics (by no means exhaustive)

National

- **Immigration/Open Borders**
- **Homeland Security/Government shutdown**
- **FBI/DOJ Corruption**

State

- **Housing/Climate**
- **COVID 19/healthcare**
- **Tax budget/pensions SD City/County/SANDAG**
- **Pension reform; Homelessness; Crime**

Questions?

Feel free to contact me at:

Mary Jane Clements, meem73@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

TNALC.ORG; Joe Rogan 1757AM; Mr. Constitution – Douglas V. Gibbs; The New American Magazine; Salt &

Light Ministries; X22 Report;

Project Veritas