



# Advocacy & Legislative Insights

De Anza College Leadership Academy - December 12, 2025



# Overview

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Who we are



Basics



Legislative Process



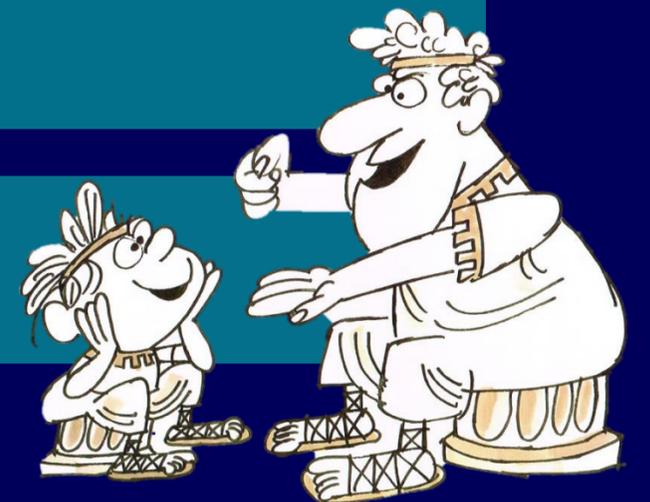
Budget Process



Regulatory Process



Advocacy Tips



# Government Relations Team



**Andy Martinez**

**Senior Director of Government  
Relations**



**Nune Garipian**

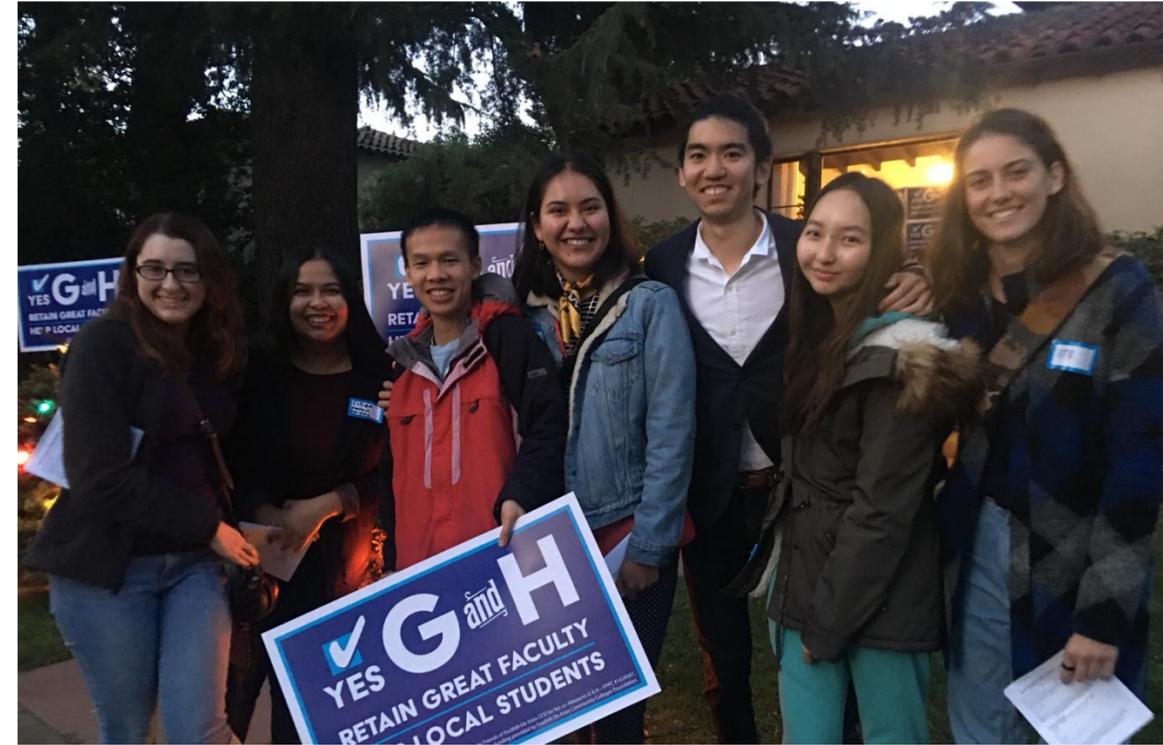
**Policy and Advocacy  
Manager**



**Kristal Padilla**

**Senior Policy Advocate**





# CCCCO Government Relations Leadership



**David O'Brien**  
**Vice Chancellor**



**Linda Vazquez, Ed.D**  
**Assistant Vice Chancellor**

**“Be nice to people on  
your way up because  
you’ll meet them on your  
way down.”**

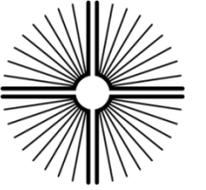
**- Wilson Mizner**



*Basics:*

# An Overview of the League and the Chancellor's Office





# Where does the League fit in?

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- The League is a nonprofit corporation that was established in 1990.
- A voluntary membership consisting of ALL 73 local public community college districts
- We support locally elected trustees and community college CEOs to serve their students and communities by advocating on their behalf at the state and federal levels.
- By providing continued professional development and delivering services that employ economies of scale to minimize cost.

## OUR VISION

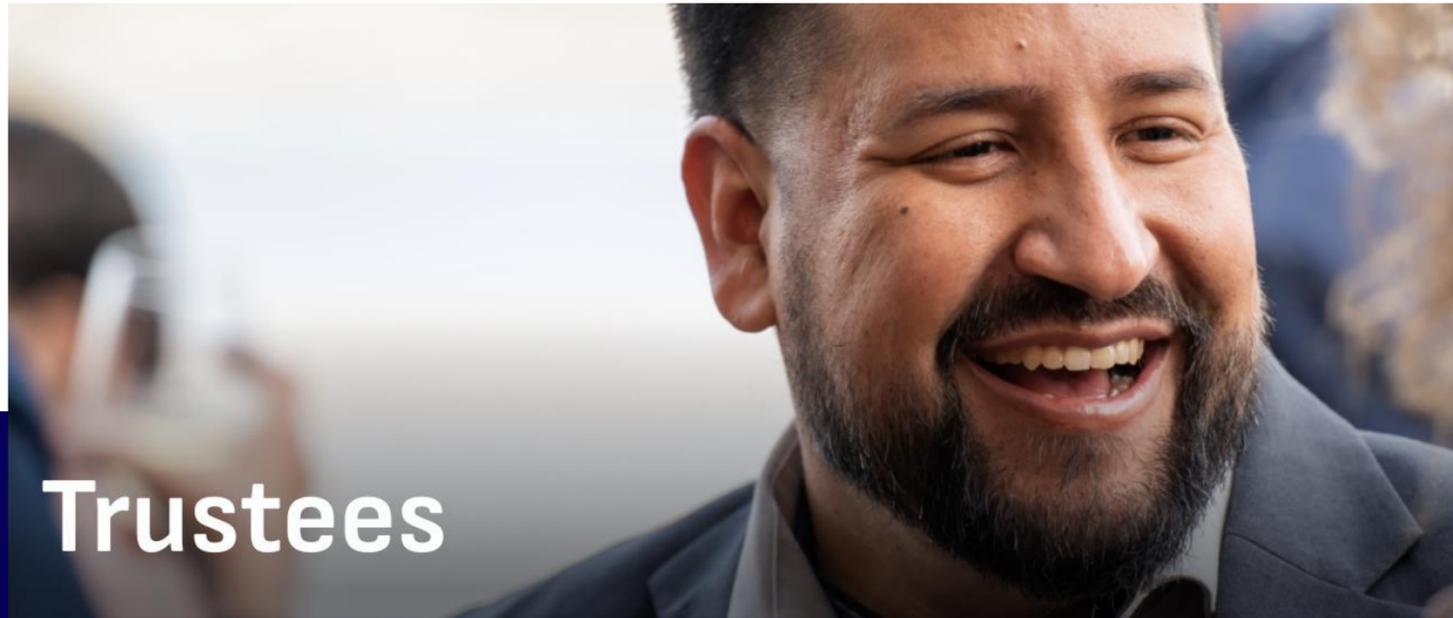
California Community Colleges as the model for community-based public higher education with an unparalleled commitment to access, equity and achievement.

## WHAT IS THE LEAGUE

The League empowers its members to transform the lives of our diverse students and strengthen communities statewide.



# Our Primary Audience



**Trustees**

## Trustees (Locally Elected)

Locally elected trustees serve on community college district boards, set policy, oversee the budget and leadership, and ensure the college meets community and student needs.

## Student Trustees

Student trustees are elected students who sit on the district board to provide the student voice and advise on decisions affecting the student experience.



**CEOs**

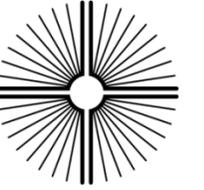
## Community College Presidents

Presidents serve as the chief executive officers of individual colleges, overseeing daily operations, academic programs, student services, and campus leadership.

## Chancellors

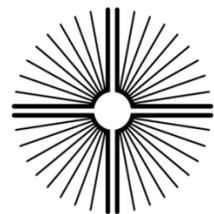
Chancellors lead multi-college districts or statewide systems, providing overall strategic direction, coordinating districtwide policies and resources, and supervising college presidents.

# What do the Chancellor's Office (and Board of Governors) do?



- The **Board of Governors (BOG)** sets policy and provides guidance to the CCC system
- BOG is also responsible for enacting regulations (in Title 5) to implement statutory and budget changes
- Approves the establishment of new community colleges and centers
- Recruits and hires a statewide Chancellor, and oversees the work of the Chancellor and the Chancellor's Office

- The **Chancellor's Office (CCCCO)** oversees and monitors state and federally established programs and mandates, including:
  - Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF)
  - Community college baccalaureate degrees
  - Equitable placement (AB 705, 1705)
  - Associate Degree for Transfer
  - Workforce and CTE programs
  - Title 5 regulations
  - And much more!



# Other Segments of Higher Education



Association of  
Independent California  
Colleges and Universities  
(AICCU)



California State  
University (CSU)



University of California  
(UC)

# State Partners

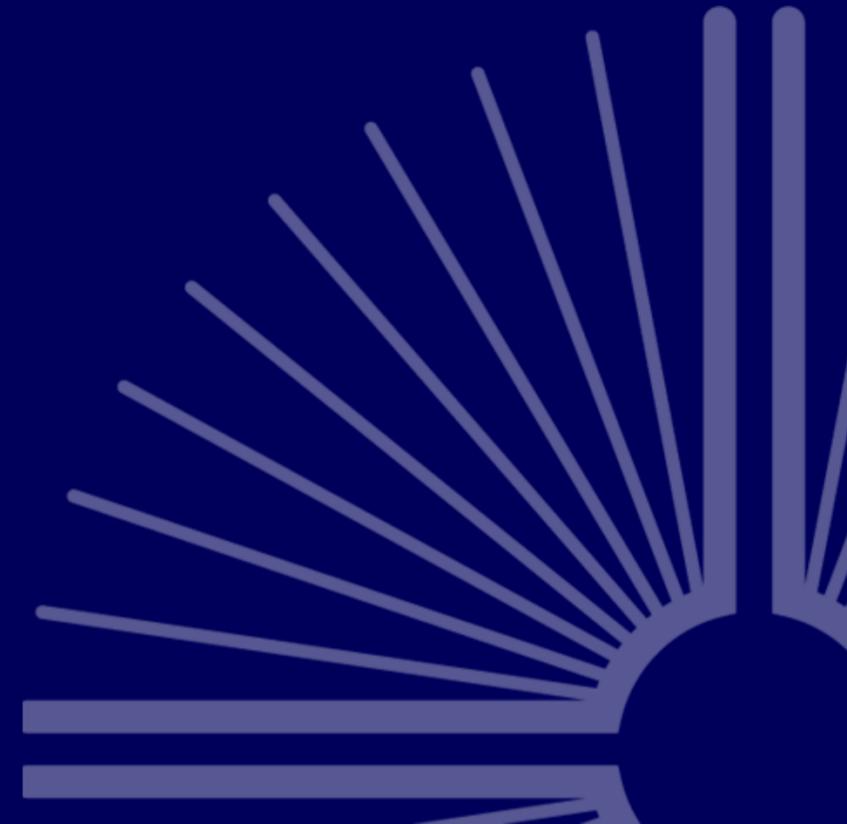


# Non-Profit Organizations

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# Legislative Basics



# California Legislature

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In California, we have a full-time legislature, which is made up of two chambers: the **State Assembly** and the **State Senate**. Together, these two chambers write, debate, and vote on state laws before sending them to the Governor.

**A legislative session lasts 2 years**

(2025 & 2026)

**Bicameral Legislature**

- Assembly
- Senate

**The Legislature is in Sacramento from January to August**

**Monday – Thursday**

- **Floor session** Monday – Thursday
- **Committees** Monday – Wednesday

**Members may author 35 bills in a 2-year legislative session**

**Members may serve 12 years**

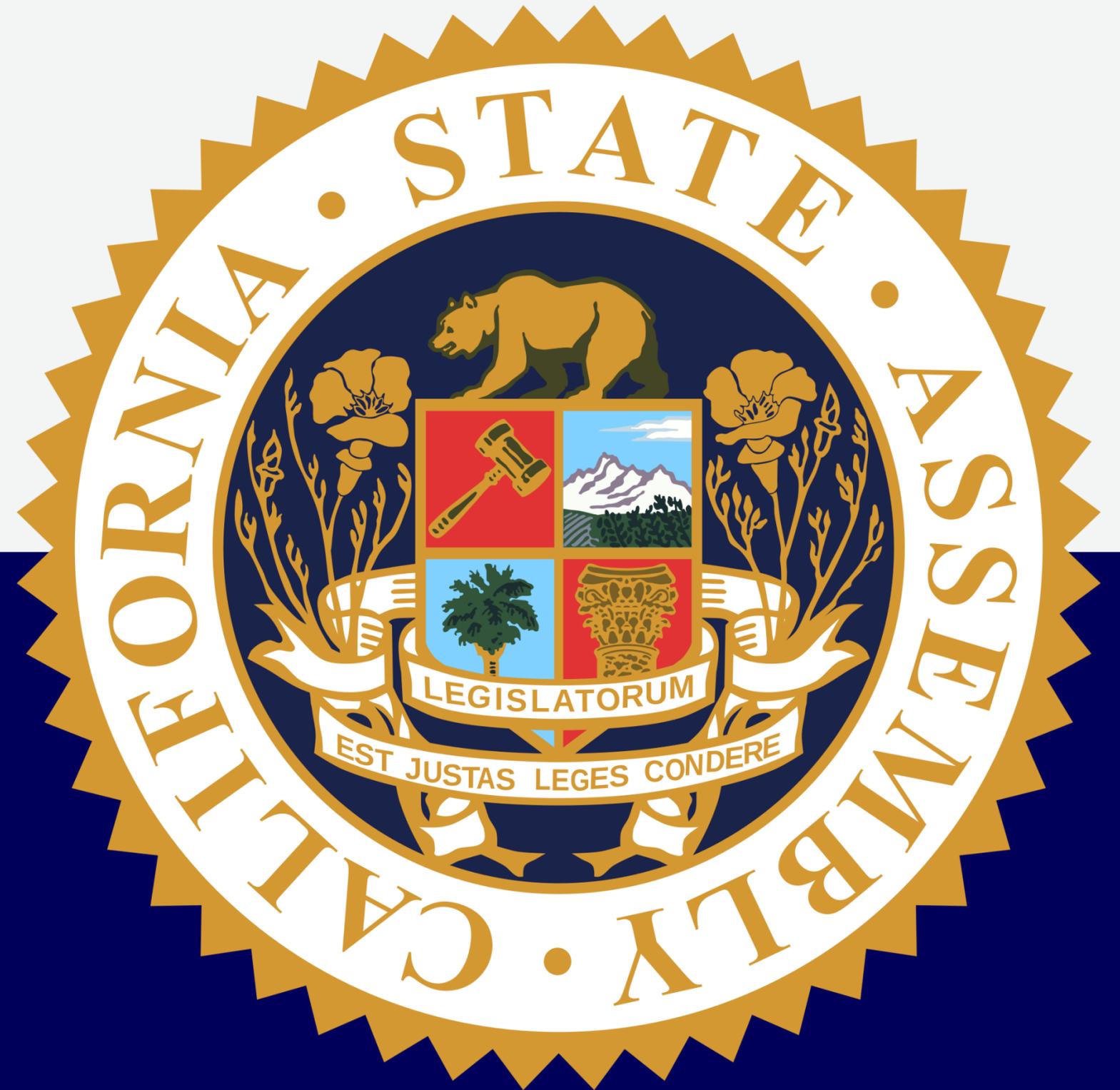
May serve in both houses  
Or serve all 12 years in one house

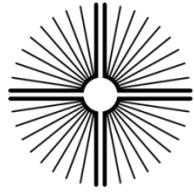


# California State Assembly

**The Assembly has 80 members**

- 2-year terms
- Can serve a maximum of 6 terms, a total of 12 years
- Each represents around 500,000 people
- Elections for the Assembly happen every two years in even-numbered years





# California State Senate

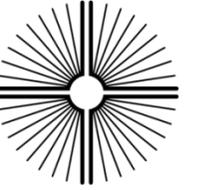
## The Senate has 40 members

- 4-year terms
- Can serve a maximum of 3 terms, a total of 12 years
- Each represents around 1 million people
- Elected every 4 years, staggered so half are up for re-election every two years



# Quick Drill!

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Find your federal representatives:



Take 3 minutes and identify the following:

Who is your personal state and federal Representative?

Who represents the college and district you work at?

Are there others who have an affinity with your college?

Example: Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi teaches a class at El Camino College.

**\*Hint: Plenty of websites exist to help you out:**

<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/#>

Find your state representative:





## You aren't the only ones coming to Sacramento

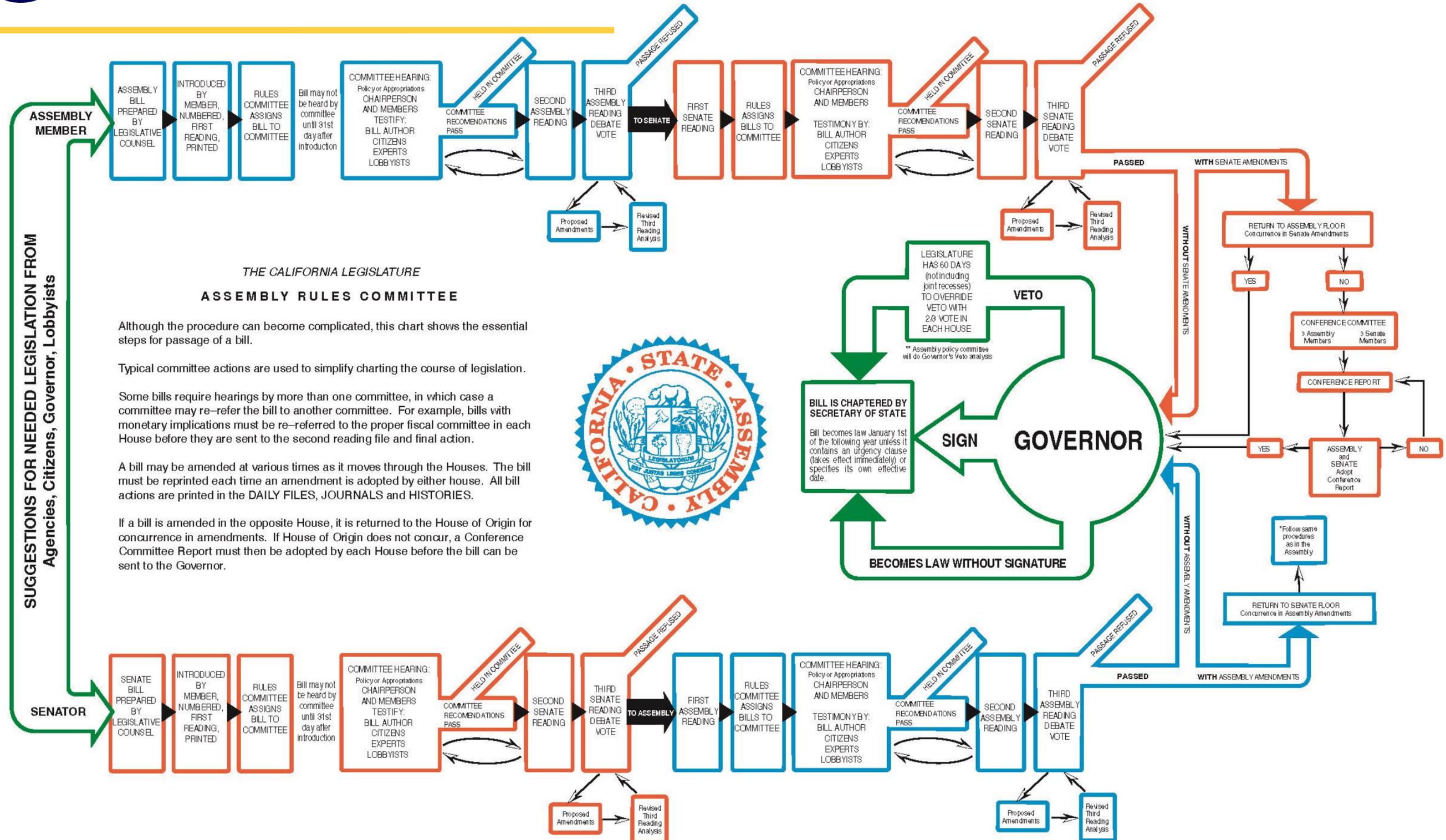
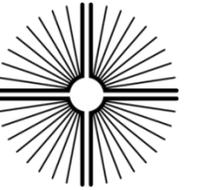
- Expect crowds
- Long lines to get through security
- Food can be hard to find
- Public spaces are available, but are limited



# Legislative Process



# Legislative Process



# Legislative Process Simplified



| JANUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|         | S  | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
|         |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| Wk. 1   | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| Wk. 2   | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Wk. 3   | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Wk. 4   | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|          | S  | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| Wk. 1    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| Wk. 2    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Wk. 3    | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Wk. 4    | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| MARCH         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|               | S  | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| Wk. 1         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| Wk. 2         | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Wk. 3         | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Wk. 4         | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Spring Recess | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| APRIL         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|               | S  | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| Spring Recess |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| Wk. 1         | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| Wk. 2         | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Wk. 3         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Wk. 4         | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| MAY      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|          | S  | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| Wk. 4    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| Wk. 1    | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| Wk. 2    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Wk. 3    | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| No hrgs. | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Wk. 4    | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

\* Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

**DEADLINES**

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 16** 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. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
- Jan. 23** 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 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(3)).

- Feb. 16** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 20** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

- Mar. 26** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

- Apr. 6** 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 observed.
- 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)).



# Legislative Calendar

Legislature is deadline driven

Each house has its own rules

Joint rules govern the process

Constitutional deadlines



# Senate Education Committee

- **Vice Chair:** Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa)
- Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D-Yolo)
- Senator Steven Choi (R-Irvine)
- Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose)
- Senator Lena A. Gonzalez (D-Long Beach)
- Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino)

**Chair:** Senator  
Sasha Renée  
Pérez (D-  
Alhambra)



# Assembly Higher Education Committee



**Chair:**  
Mike Fong (D-  
Alhambra)

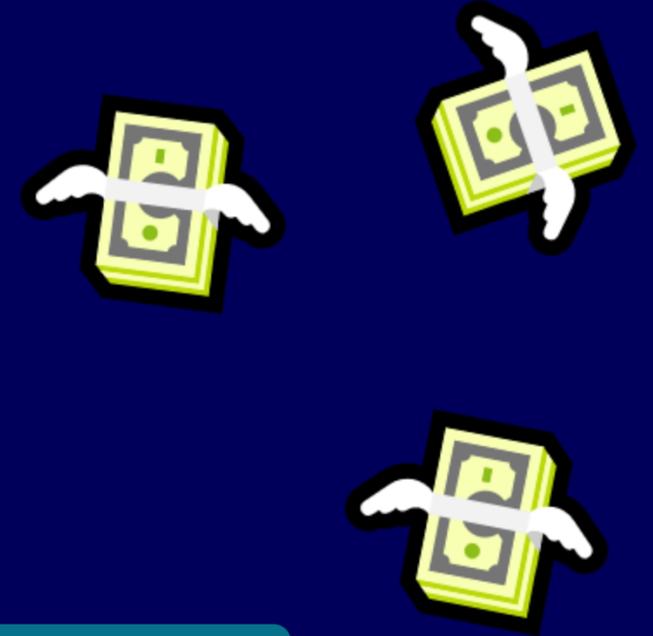
- **Vice Chair:** Carl DeMaio (R- San Diego)
- Assemblymember Tasha Boerner (D- Encinitas)
- Assemblymember Bill Essayli (R- Corona)
- Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez (R- Indio)
- Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D- Moreno Valley)
- Assemblymember Maggy Krell (D- Sacramento)
- Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D- Torrance)
- Assemblymember Darshana Patel (D-San Diego)
- Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez (D- Ontario)
- Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins (D- San Diego)





# Appropriations Committees

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Any bills that cost the state money to implement will be referred to the Appropriations Committee



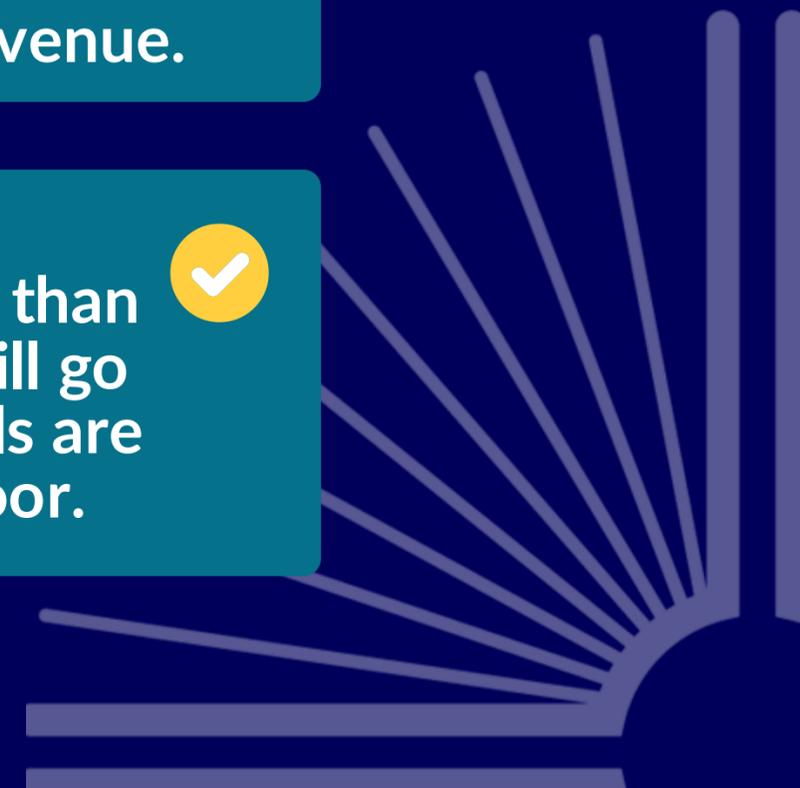
These bills are considered at one hearing after the state budget has been prepared and the committee has a better sense of the available revenue.



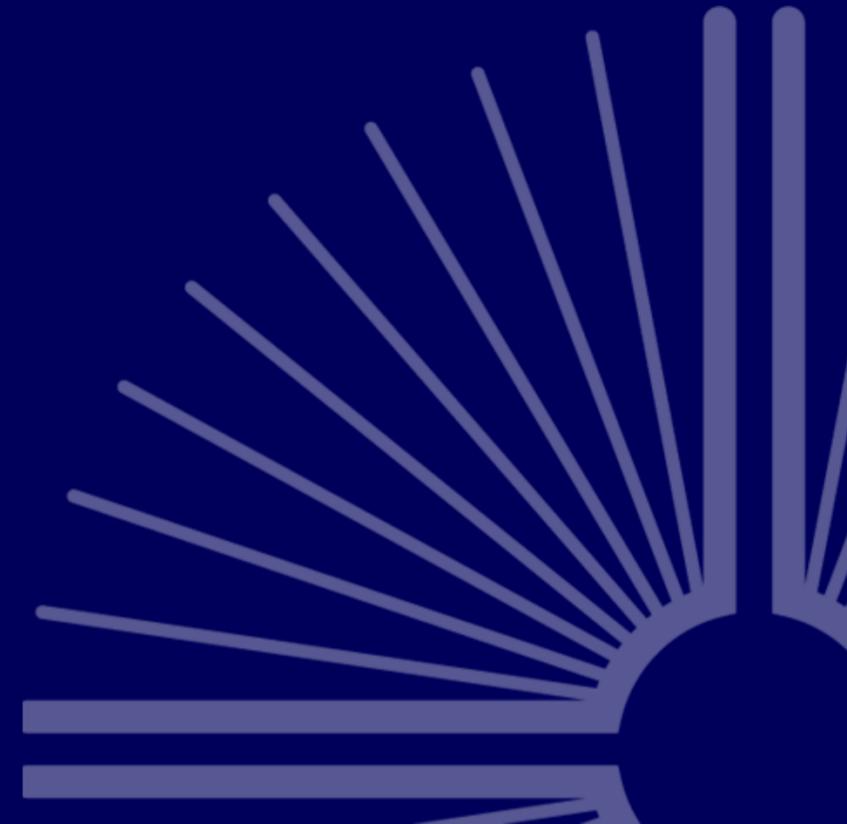
Almost all bills will be referred to the Appropriations Committee after their policy committee hearing



Any bill that costs more than \$150,000 or \$50,000 will go on the suspense file. Bills are held or passed to the floor.



# Budget Process





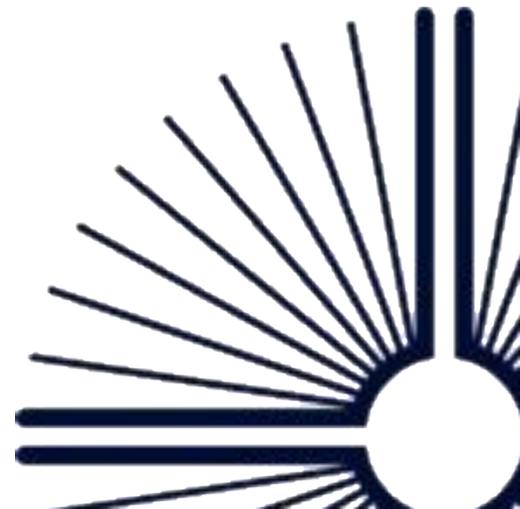
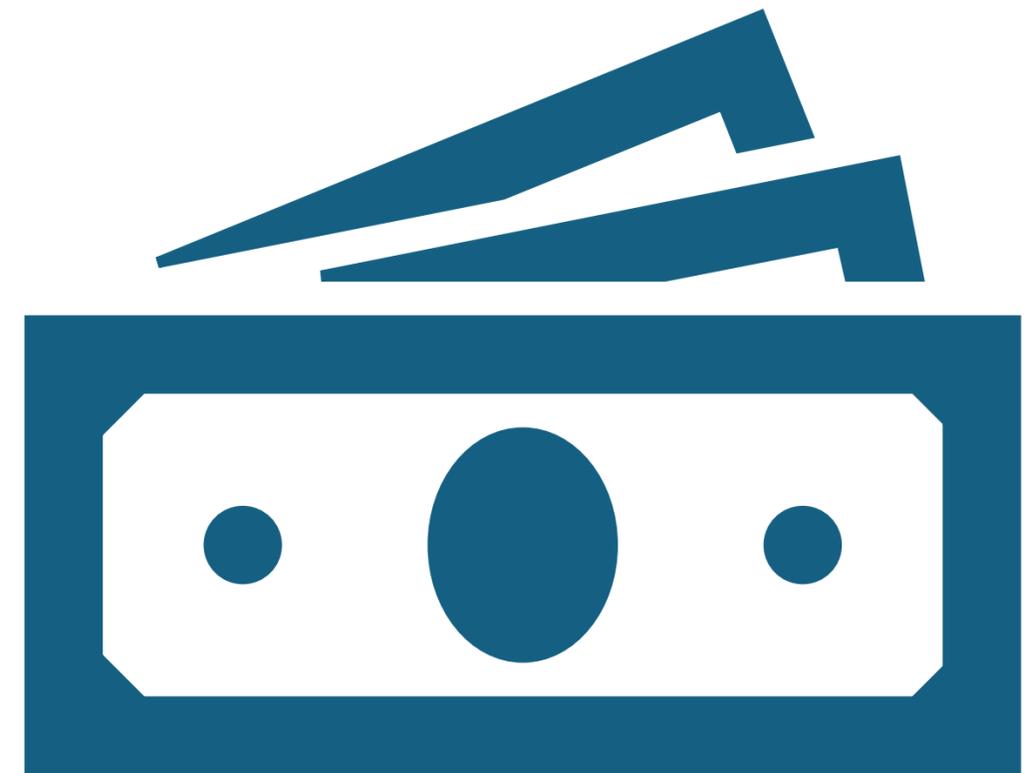
# Key Definitions

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# What is the Budget Bill?

- A legislative bill that authorizes state spending across public services and systems for a single fiscal year.
- Forms the core of the annual state budget package.
- **Budget Package Components**
- Typically includes multiple budget bills each year:
  - **Budget Act** – the primary annual spending bill.
  - **Budget Bill Jr.** – follow-up bills used to adjust appropriations after enactment of the Budget Act.



# What is a Trailer Bill?

A bill that makes changes to state law needed to implement the policies and funding assumptions in the Budget Act.

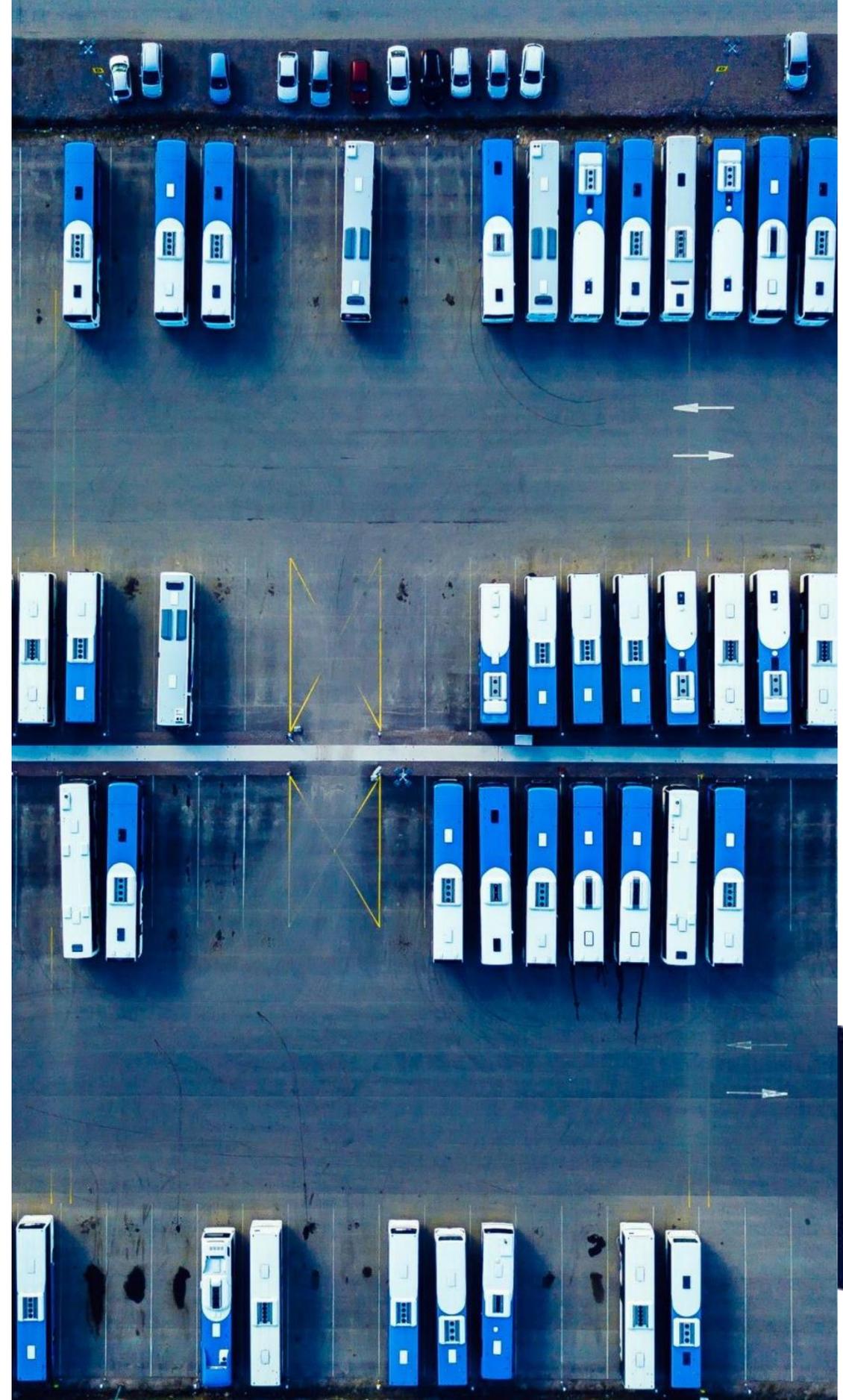
Provides statutory detail for new or revised programs funded in the budget.

Each trailer bill covers a specific policy area (e.g., health, housing, transportation).

Reviewed and moved through the **Assembly and Senate budget committees.**



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA



# What is the General Fund?

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California's major operating fund, which accounts for *revenues* that are not designated for a specific purpose

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The three major sources of General Fund revenues are

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- 1) The state personal income tax
  - 2) The state sales and use tax, and
  - 3) The state corporation tax
- 

Most General Fund expenditures go toward K-12 and higher education, health and human services programs, and the state prison system



# What is Proposition 98?



The guarantee for a minimum annual level of funding for California's K-12 schools and community colleges.



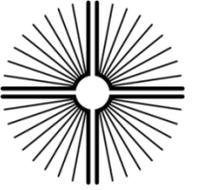
The amount of the guarantee is calculated each year using one of three tests that apply under varying fiscal and economic conditions.



Prop. 98 funding comes from the state *General Fund* as well as from local property tax dollars.



# Proposition 98



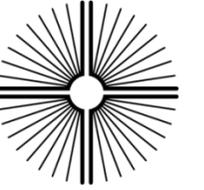
**Prop 98 share of revenues:** Historically, about **45% of General Fund revenues** go to Prop 98. Roughly **55% of new revenues** may flow to Prop 98.



**Suspending Prop 98:** The Legislature may suspend the guarantee with a **two-thirds vote**, allowing funding below the constitutional minimum. Suspension offers **short-term budget relief** but creates **long-term obligations**, tightening future budgets when revenues rebound.



**The Split:** Prop 98 dollars are divided using an informal **1989-90 baseline split**. About **89% for K-12** and **11% for community colleges**



# One Time Cost vs Ongoing Cost

 A one-time cost is a proposed or actual expenditure ]that is non-recurring – usually reflected only in a single annual budget – and is not permanently included in the *baseline budget*



Budget analysis will describe an expenditure as either "one-time" or "ongoing"



Or funding being "Prop 98" or "General Fund (Non98)"



A "Cost of Living Adjustment" or COLA is usually an ongoing cost

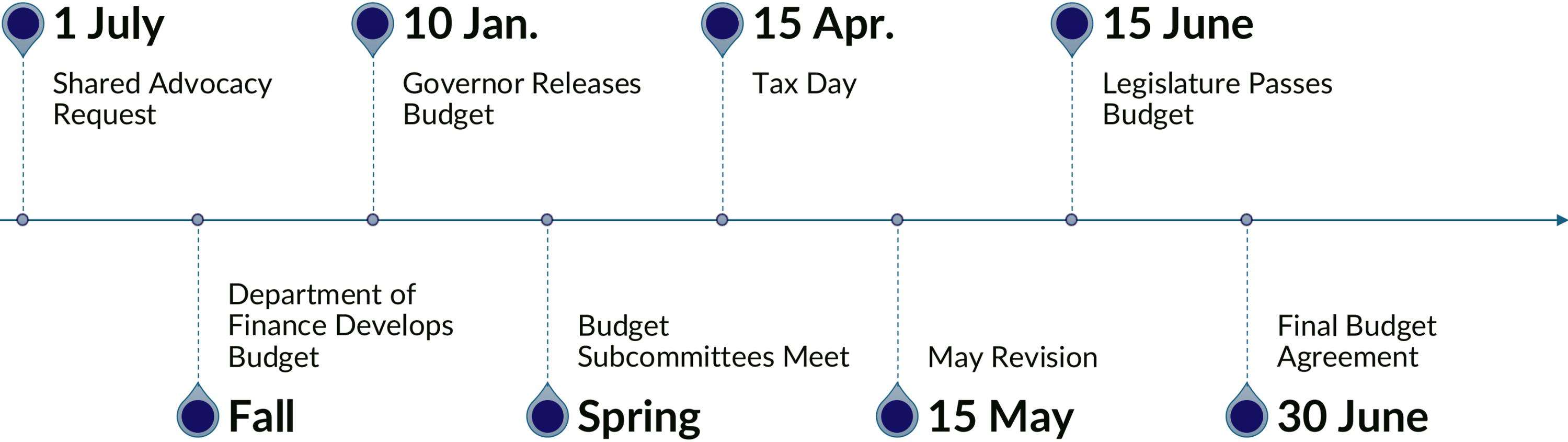


# Budget Timeline

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# California Budget Timeline





# Shared Advocacy Request

- Each State Entity may submit a "Budget Change Proposal(BCP)" to the Department of Finance
- For the Chancellor's Office, this document is reflected in Shared Advocacy Request
- Chancellor's Office asks for insight from various partners as they prepare request
- <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/general/2026-27-shared-advocacy-request-bog-approved-a11y.pdf>



California Community Colleges

**Powering California's Economy:  
Investing in Students, Workforce, and  
Innovation**

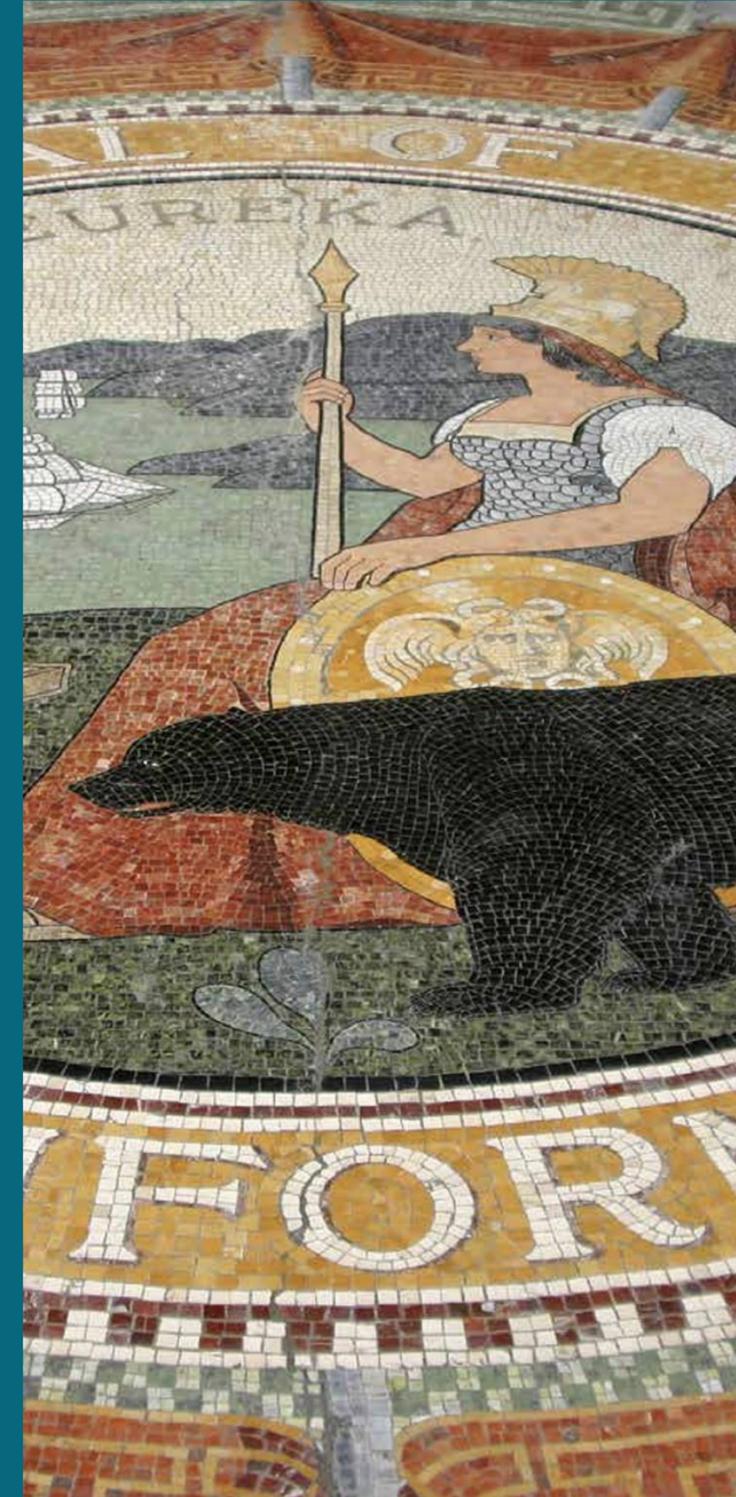
**2026-27 Board of Governors  
Budget and Legislative Request**

September 2025



# Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)

- Non Partisan Office that works on behalf of the Legislature
- Provides policymakers and others interested parties insight
- In November, offers first glimpse at the State's revenues and fiscal trends
- And offers policy recommendations to the Legislature to consider for the coming year



The 2026-27 Budget:

## California's Fiscal Outlook

LAO 

GABRIEL PETEK  
LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
NOVEMBER 2025



# Governor Newsom Releases the budget

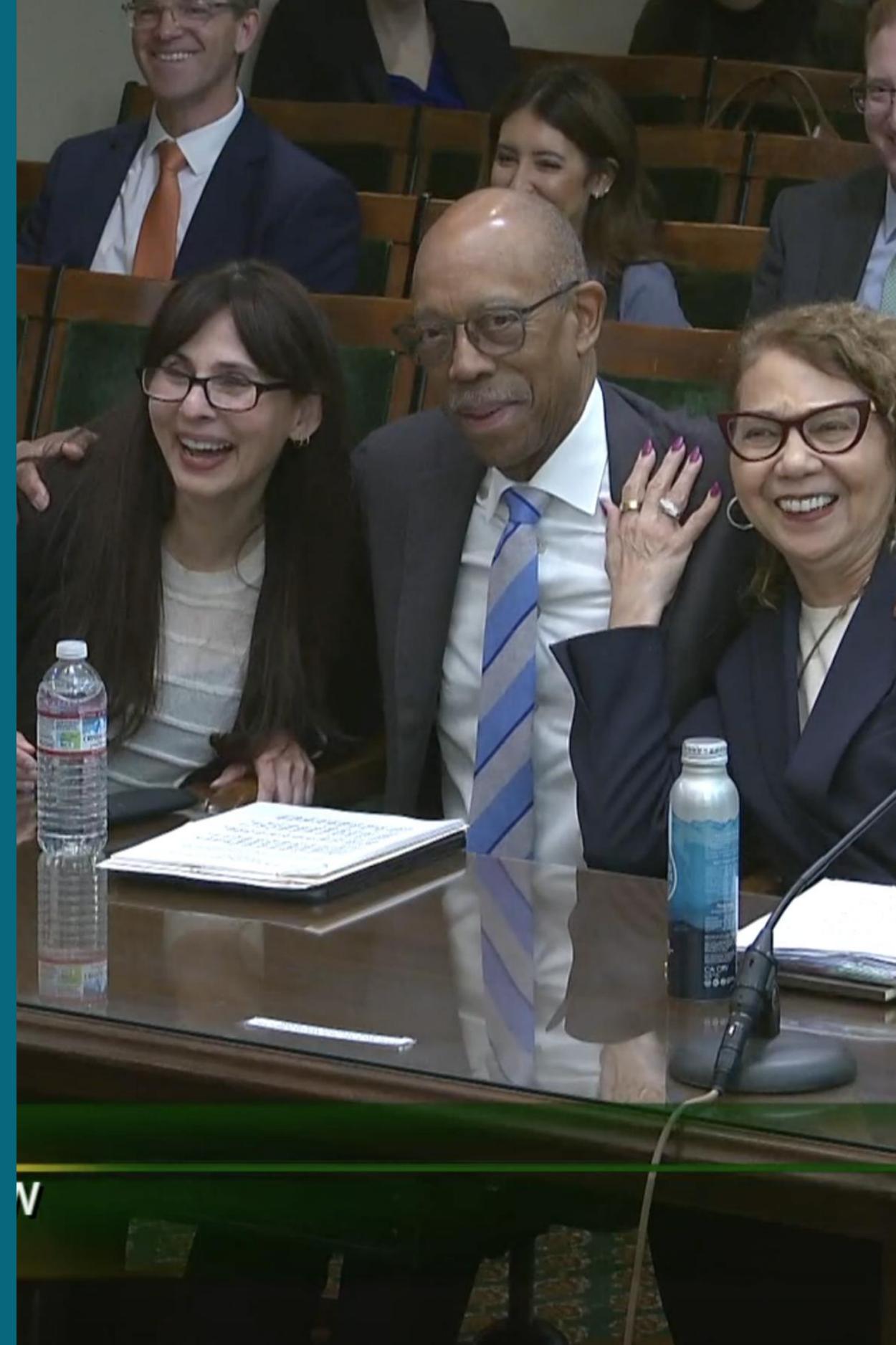
- By January 10, the Governor must release his proposed budget for the year
- Includes Summary
- And supporting materials





# Budget Subcommittees will:

- Meet on a regular schedule in the spring
- Will break down their hearings into specific subjects
- Ask the Department of Finance to provide an overview with Q&A
- Ask affected agencies to present with Q&A
- Ask the Legislative Analyst's Office to present with Q&A
- Will hold most items "open" (no vote)
- But questions and opening statements indicate areas of agreement and disagreement
- Public Comments



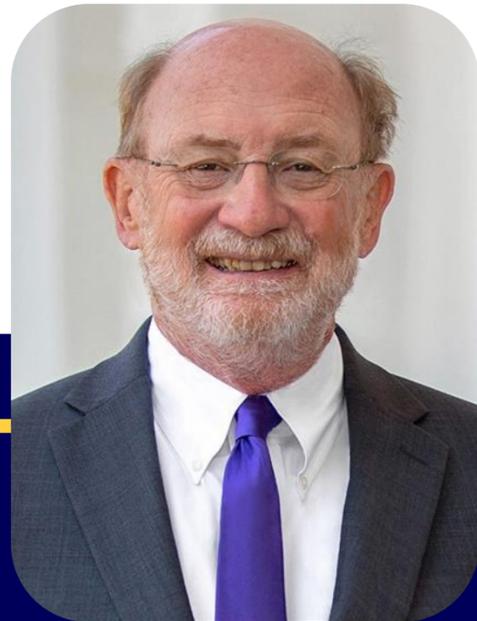
# Budget Sub. Committees



## Senate Budget Sub 1 on Education

Vice Chair: Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa)

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Alhambra)



**Chair:** Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz)

## Assembly Budget Sub 3 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Mike Fong (D- Alhambra)

Assemblymember Heather Hadwick (R- Alturas)

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D- Torrance)

Assemblymember Darshana Patel (D- San Diego)

Assemblymember Greg Wallis (R- Bermuda Dunes)



**Chair:** David Alvarez (D-San Diego)

**Tax Day**





# May Revision

- Governor releases updated budget proposal by May 15
- Reflects feedback administration has heard during the subcommittee process
- Reflects updated revenues related to income received from April 15
- Pace of the budget process increases dramatically





# Subcommittees and Legislative Budget

- Subcommittees may only meet once
- Legislature will release their version of the budget
- Budget Committee may meet as a whole to vote
- Floor vote must take place by June 15





# Final Action by June 30

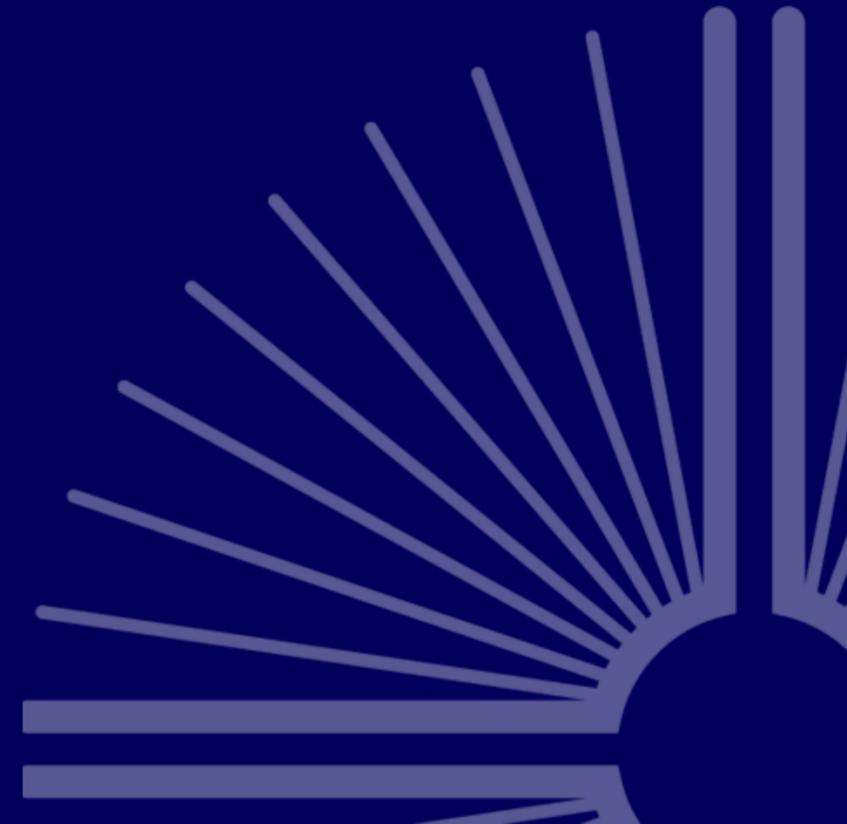
- Leadership and staff work on the final agreement
- Language for the Budget Bill and Trailer bills takes multiple days to draft
- Must sit for 72 hours before the final vote



**July 1<sup>st</sup>:  
Budget process  
begins again**



# Regulatory Process



# Statute vs. Regulation

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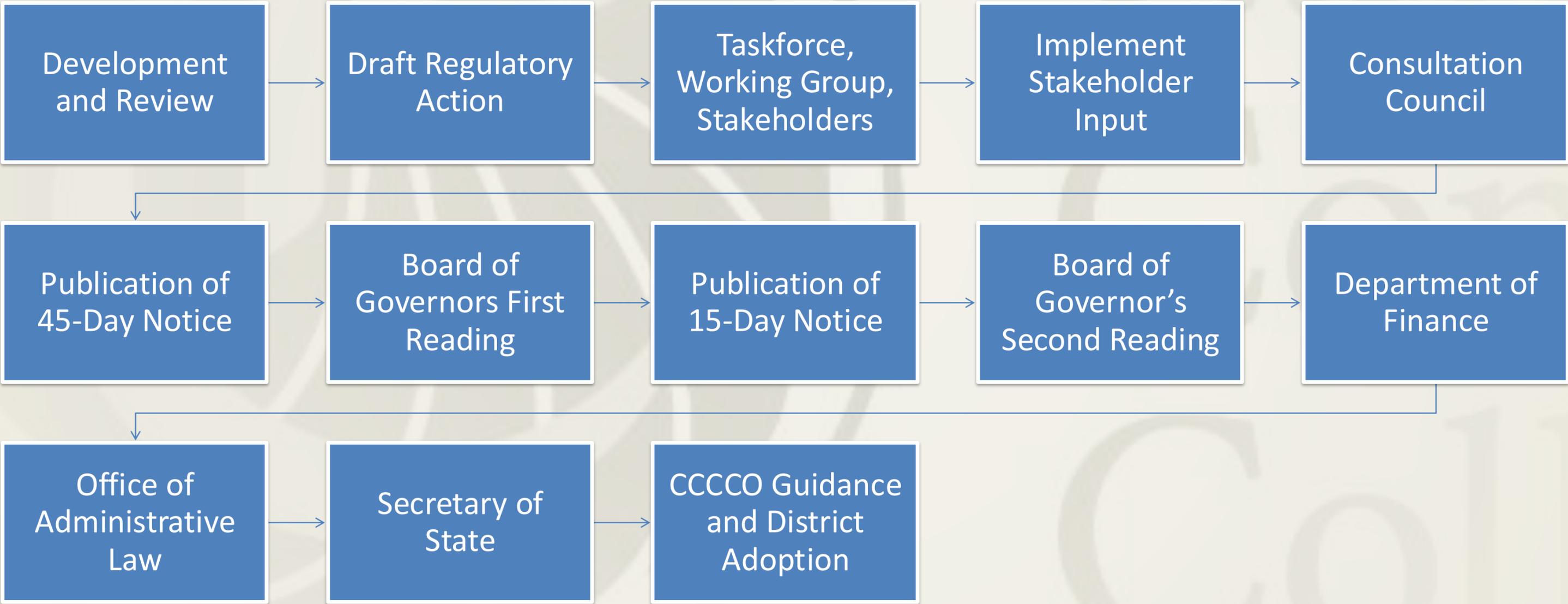
## Statute

- Introduced by a member of Legislature
- Voted on by members of Legislature
- Signed by Governor.
- Housed in Education Code

## Regulation

- Enacted by state agency/board
- Requires authorization in legislation
- Holds same force as legislation  
Housed in Title V

# Overview of CCC Regulation Process



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## Non Resident Tuition Exemption

- This is an example of a combination of 70901 authority and specific authority per AB 1540 (2023)
- Requires an institution of higher education to accept an AB 540 affidavit provided to the institution by the California Student Aid Commission as part of a student's financial aid application



# Key Differences Between Legislative and Regulatory Processes

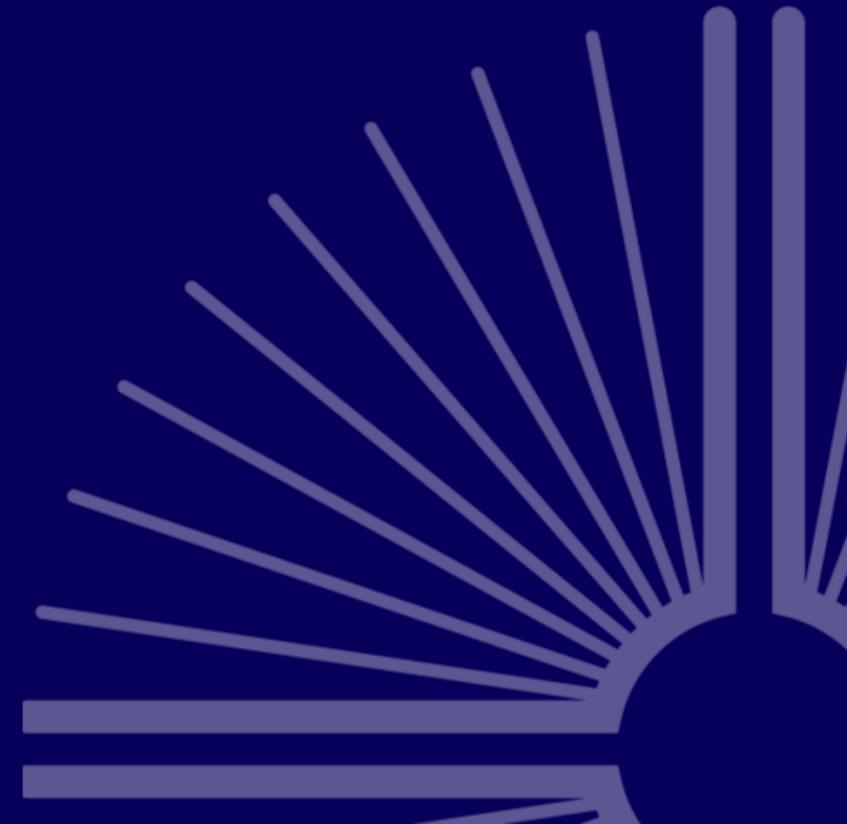
## Legislative

- Makes laws
- Process initiated by a variety of sources
- Runs on a set annual calendar
- Requires legislative and executive branch agreement
- Wider stakeholder engagement
- More favorable to legislative branch
- Outlines general principles

## Regulatory

- Makes rules that authorized by laws
- Process initiated by state agency or legislation
- Can occur throughout the year
- Require approval of the CCC Board of Governors
- Stakeholder engagement is more technical in nature
- More favorable to the executive branch
- Specific instructions for how to comply

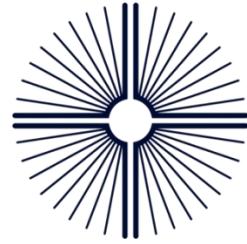
# Advocacy Tips



**“The time to make  
friends is before you  
need them.”**

**- Lyndon B. Johnson**





# Importance of Advocacy

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- Every year, policymakers make decisions that directly impact students and colleges.
- Legislators look to local colleges for guidance on major policy decisions.
- Local advocacy provides **context** to decisions made in Sacramento.



# If you can, take the stairs!



## Everyone hates the Swing Space elevators, but are they really dangerous?



BY BRIAN JOSEPH POSTED 06.13.2023

The Swing Space has **SIX** elevators, **THREE** of which are dedicated to the Governor and Legislative Members

“Rode the Tower of Terror today, AKA #caleg Swing Space Elevator E,” **tweeted Alex Graves**, vice president of government relations for the **Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, or AICCU**.

“I just watched a swing space elevator nearly close on a small child,” **wrote Bethany Renfree**, legislative director for Sen. **María Elena Durazo**, D-Los Angeles. “I used my very stern mother voice to stop it from happening and everyone looked at me like I’m a mean lady. But I’m not taking any chances with these elevators.”

“Someone told (m)e elevator E plunged 5 floors,” **tweeted Bob Becker**, an education consultant with the Assembly Republican Office of Policy and Budget.





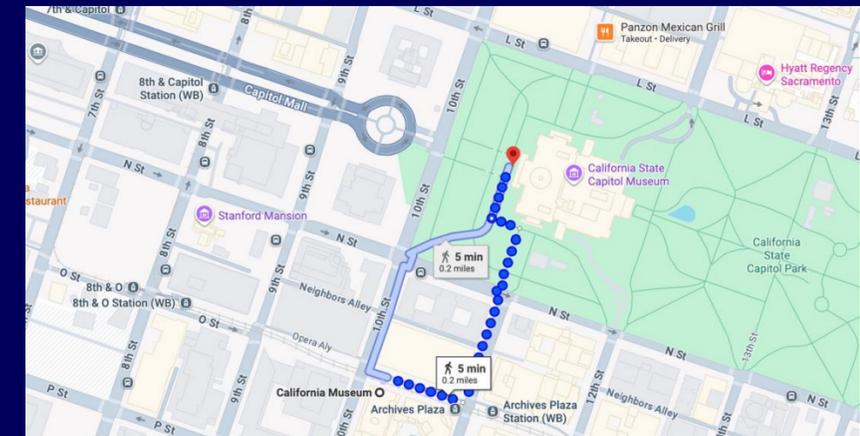
# Legislative Meetings

- Offices are housed in the “Swing Space,” while the Capitol building is under construction
- Request meetings multiple weeks in advance
- The member may only have 15-30 minutes for a meeting
- You may be redirected to the staff
- It may be easier to meet with the member in their district office than to meet with them in Sacramento
- May have space limitations
  - Don’t be surprised to have a meeting in a shared space



## Research

Dem vs. Rep  
Southern CA vs. Northern CA  
Rural vs. Urban



# Engaging with the Legislature

- Weigh in via:
  - Official position letters, meetings, and testifying in committee
- Key committees
  - Assembly Higher Education Committee
  - Senate Education Committee
  - Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees
  - Budget Subcommittees





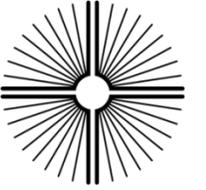
# Invite your legislators to your campus

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- Advocacy starts at the district
- A pre-existing relationship with a legislator helps when making advocacy asks
- Invite legislators onto campus for tours, town halls, and events



# Advocacy Tips



Knowing the calendar is key



Members have more time in early Spring



Committees, floor votes and budget make it a challenge



Consider visiting the member  
in their district office

Spring Recess

Summer Recess

Fall Recess

# Upcoming Events

## League's Annual Legislative Conference

January 25-26, 2026

Sacramento, CA

## Congressional Champions Reception

February 10, 2026

Washington, D.C.





# Register for the League's GR

## Webinars

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
January to October

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Register here  
[bit.ly\\_CCLC2026GRWebinar](https://bit.ly_CCLC2026GRWebinar)

# Connect with the League online!



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Community College League  
of California



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- [ADVOCATES@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:ADVOCATES@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET)
- Send an email from the address to be subscribed to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET) and put **SUBSCRIBE ADVOCATES** in the body of a BLANK, NON-HTML e-mail. NO SUBJECT OR SIGNATURES.

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