A Guide to the Arizona Legislature

HOW THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE WORKS

90 seats in the Arizona Legislature

30 Legislative Districts
Each district has one senator and two house members.

30 Senate Seats
60 House Seats

TO QUALIFY AS A LEGISLATOR
ONE MUST BE:

- at least 25 years of age at the time of taking office,
- resident of the state for the previous three years and a resident of the county for at least one year before election,
- cannot be employed by the state or any county, city or town. This prohibition does not extend to public school teachers.
- cannot be under guardianship or convicted of a felony, unless their right to vote has been restored.
ARIZONA ELECTS **30** STATE SENATORS AND **60** HOUSE MEMBERS.

All state representatives are elected **every two years**, and elections happen on **even years**. State representatives may only serve **four consecutive terms** in their office and must wait **one** full term before serving in that same office again.

**LEGISLATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- **DRAFTING AND INTRODUCING BILLS**
- **DEBATING THE MERITS OF BILLS**
- **VOTING TO PASS OR KILL BILLS**

The Arizona Legislative session starts on the **2nd Monday of January** every year.

The legislature adjourns sine die (i.e., terminates for the year) no later than the Saturday of the week in which the 100th day from the beginning of the regular session falls. The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House may, by rule, extend the session up to seven additional days. Thereafter, the session can only be extended by a majority vote of members present of each house.
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

If your legislators don’t hear from you, they assume you approve of their actions.

FIRST THINGS FIRST, FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS

WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

CALL THEM OR WRITE THEM

TIP 1
Know your house and senate district and the names of your legislators.

TIP 2
Plan out what you will say.

TIP 3
Remember to mention the bill number (if any) and why you are calling or writing.

TIP 4
Make it short and sweet. Get to your point quickly.

TIP 5
Tell a personal story they can connect to.

TIP 6
Problem, solution, action (i.e. “Vote yes on HB xxxx!”).
WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

MEET THEM IN PERSON

STEP ONE
Schedule your meeting.

STEP TWO
Be flexible and patient.

STEP THREE
Prepare and educate yourself. Establish clear goals.

STEP FOUR
Follow up and say thank you!

ENGAGE WITH THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TIP 1
Follow and comment on your legislator’s page.

TIP 2
Ask them where they stand on issues.

TIP 3
Urge them to support or oppose bills.

TIP 4
Share our content on social media @acluaz (Twitter), ACLU of Arizona (Facebook) and tag your legislator.

CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS EARLY AND OFTEN!

ACLUAZ
602-650-1854
acluaz.org
IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

STAY CONNECTED WITH US
(SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA)

JOIN PEOPLE POWER
(WWW.PEOPLEPOWER.ORG)

PUBLIC MARCH OR PROTEST

WHY IS SHARING YOUR STORY IMPORTANT?

PERSONAL STORIES
MAKE AN IMPACT

OPEN THE DOOR
TO LASTING CHANGE

START IMPORTANT
CONVERSATIONS