Newly Elected Officials

Reviewing the Fundamentals of Elected Office:

Lobbying Effectively

Alaska Municipal League
December 2022
Jordan Marshall
AML Lobbyist
Lobbying Effectively: LOBBYING

• Definition: “Influencing legislative or administrative action” means to communicate directly for the purpose of introducing, promoting, advocating, supporting, modifying, opposing or delaying any legislative or administrative action.

• Definition: “Communicating directly” means to speak with a legislator, legislative employee, or public official.

• Lobbying is part of your job

• You are allowed to lobby

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Lobbying Effectively: LOBBYING

- Local Government Legislative Priorities / Resolutions
- AML can help

Sec. 24.45.161. Exemptions.
(a) This chapter does not apply to
(1) an individual
   (A) who lobbies without payment of compensation or other consideration and
   makes no disbursement or expenditure for or on behalf of a public official to
   influence legislative or administrative action other than to pay the individual’s
   reasonable personal travel and living expenses; and

   (B) who limits lobbying activities to appearances before public sessions of
   the legislature, or its committees or subcommittees, or to public hearings or other
   public proceedings of state agencies;

(2) an elected or appointed state or municipal public officer or an employee of
the state or a municipality acting in an official capacity or within the scope of
employment;
Lobbying Effectively: LOBBYING

• Lobbyists are regulated by Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC)

• Questions:
  • Call Juneau Office 907-465-4864
  • https://doa.alaska.gov/apoc/
Lobbying Effectively: RESOURCES

• AML: legislative tracker, weekly calendar, website
• The Alaska State Legislative Website: BASIS
  (Bill Action and Status Information System) www.akleg.gov
• Office of Management & Budget
• Legislative Finance Division
• Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA)
• Publications:
  • Alaska Legislative Directory
  • Directory of State Officials
  • A Layman’s Guide to the Budget Process
  • The Legislative Process in Alaska
  • Steps in Passage of a Bill

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Lobbying Effectively: RESOURCES

From the *Glossary of Legislative Terms*

"Introduction" - The presentation of a bill or resolution by placing it on the senate secretary’s or chief clerk’s desk; formally accomplished when a house is in session and it is read by title (first reading) and then referred to committee. (See AS 26.08.060 and Uniform Rule 37)
Lobbying Effectively: RESOURCES
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Lobbying Effectively: PEOPLE

- People: Legislators and staff
- Do you know your legislator?
  - The importance of local government officials
  - Meet with them before January session
- Get to know staff
- Executive Branch
  - Need support of Governor and agencies
  - Aim to get into the Governor’s Budget
  - Separate budget process in Summer and Fall
Lobbying Effectively: ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

• Each House organized by Majority and Minority
  • **Senate 2023** (20 Members: 17 Majority, 3 Minority)
  • **House 2023** – NOT YET organized (40 Members: 21 Republican, 13 Democratic, 6 Independent)... evenly split ideologically

• Majority Organization Holds Power:
  • Leadership & Committee Chairs
  • Set Agenda
    • Size of budget
    • Which bills pass
    • Negotiation with Governor
    • Bills sponsored by Majority members move

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Lobbying Effectively: ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

SENATE Majority Caucus

8 Republican
• Bert Stedman – Co.Ch. Fin.
• Gary Stevens – Sen. Pres.
• Jesse Bjorkman
• Cathy Giessel – Maj. Leader
• James Kaufman
• Kelly Merrick
• David Wilson
• Click Bishop – Maj. Whip

9 Democratic
• Jesse Kiehl
• Elvi Gray-Jackson
• Matt Claman
• Löki Tobin
• Forrest Dunbar
• Bill Wielechowski
• Scott Kawasaki
• Lyman Hoffman – Co.Ch. Fin.
• Donny Olson – Co.Ch. Fin.

Minority (3 Republican)
• Shelley Hughes
• Robb Myers
• Mike Shower

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Lobbying Effectively: ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

House Organization – Caucuses TBD

21 Republican
- Jamie Allard
- Ben Carpenter
- Julie Coulombe
- Mike Cronk
- David Eastman*
- Craig Johnson
- DeLena Johnson
- Kevin McCabe
- Tom McKay*
- Mike Prax
- George Rauscher
- Justin Ruffridge

13 Democratic
- Jennie Armstrong*
- Ashley Carrick
- Maxine Dibert
- Zack Fields
- Neal Foster

6 Independent
- Bryce Edgmon
- Alyse Galvin
- Rebecca Himschoot
- Dan Ortiz
- Josiah Patkotak
- Calvin Schrage

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Lobbying Effectively: **PROCESS: COMMITTEES**

- Committees are an essential part of the legislative process:
  - Oversight, gather testimony, consider appointees, amend/advance/hold bills
- Committee hearings include introduction and sponsor statement, and invited and public testimony.
- Bills can be amended in committee and on the Floor.
- Standing Committees:
  - FIN, EDU, H&SS, JUD, L&C, C&RA, RES, STA, etc.
Lobbying Effectively: **PROCESS: BUDGET**

1. State agencies prepare their budget requests July-August
2. Requests are submitted in September to OMB for consideration by the director and Governor
3. Final budget requests approved by OMB Director and Governor are submitted in December to the Legislature
4. The bills are automatically referred to the Finance Committees in each body
5. Finance Subcommittees are appointed to handle each department’s budget request
6. Each Subcommittee considers the budgets and makes recommendations
7. The full Finance Committee considers the bill, debates, amends, and passes out of committee.
8. The bills go to the floor ("second reading"). After amendments/discussion/debate, the bill is at "third reading" / final vote.
9. The operating and capital budgets have to travel through both bodies and have concurrence from the originating body
   If the two bodies cannot agree on the budget, the items they cannot agree on will end up in conference committee.
10. When it is passed, it is transmitted to the Governor for his consideration and signature.

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Lobbying Effectively: LOCAL / STATE INTERSECTIONS

- Education: Base Student Allocation (BSA)
- Community Assistance (“Revenue Sharing”)
- School Bond Debt Reimbursement
- Power Cost Equalization (PCE)
- Public Safety: Troopers, VPSOs, community jails
- Infrastructure: roads, ports/harbors

AML:
  - We track legislation and budget items
  - We can help you with talking points

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Lobbying Effectively: **ADVOCACY DO’s**

- Call ahead for appointments
- Consistent messaging
- Prepare 5-minute explanation of request
- Document local support
  - Agency support is helpful too
- Leave written backup at office
- Know importance of staff
- Know who you are talking to (leadership, party, comm membership)

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Lobbying Effectively: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

• AML is here to help
• Legislative Committee – get involved
• Your visits to Juneau
• Statewide Issues
• Share – the more we know... the better