Navigating the Missouri Legislative Process
About Us

Missouri Foundation for Health is a resource for the region, working with communities and nonprofits to generate and accelerate positive changes in health.

As a catalyst for change, the Foundation improves the health of Missourians through partnership, experience, knowledge and funding.
The Foundation serves 84 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.
## Foundation Priorities

| **Targeted Initiatives** | Childhood Obesity Prevention  
|                          | Expanding Coverage  
|                          | Infant Mortality  
|                          | Oral Health |

| **Responsive Portfolio** | Opportunity Oriented  
|                         | Strengthening the Health Field |

| **Policy Portfolio** | Research and Education  
|                     | Health Equity  
|                     | Building the Field of Advocates  
|                     | Community Government & Outreach |
Today

1. What is Advocacy?
2. Legislative Process
3. Engaging a Policymaker
4. Getting Started
5. Your Questions
Navigating the Missouri Legislative Process

What is Advocacy?
“Advocacy” & “Lobbying”

• What is Lobbying?
  – Attempting to influence legislators to support or oppose a particular issue or piece of legislation

• What is Advocacy?
  – Educating and creating awareness among legislators and the general public about issues facing the community and the importance of aligning public policy to address the need.
Still have lobbying questions?

Alliance for Justice (AFJ)
www.afj.org
Free hotline: 866-NP-LOBBY

Missouri Ethics Commission
www.mec.mo.gov

MFH is offering a free in-person workshop on
December 18th.
Navigating the Missouri Legislative Process
Legislative Process - Basics

• “General Assembly”
  – Bicameral
  – Term Limits
  – Responsibilities
    • Appropriations
    • Policy
    • Other lawmaking (ballot measures)

• Critical Dates
  – Regular (January to May)
  – Veto (September)
  – Special
  – “Off” Session = Agenda Setting
Legislative Process - Mechanics Overview

1. Drafting & filing legislation
   – Start fresh each regular session
2. First chamber
   – Committee = testify for, against, or informational
3. Second chamber
   – Repeat process
4. Conference Committee (if needed)
5. “TAFP” = Truly Agreed and Finally Passed
6. Governor
7. Implementation
Drafting and Filing a Bill

• No bills carry over
• Who can draft?
• Pre-filing (December 1\textsuperscript{st}) through 60\textsuperscript{th} day of session (early May)

Opportunities for Influence
✓ Find a champion to sponsor your legislation
✓ Allow time for writing
✓ Know limits & process to compromise
First & Second Reading

• First Reading
  – Title & number
  – Printed

• Second Reading
  – Assigned to Committee by Speaker or President Pro Tem
Committee Process

• Public Hearing
  – Announced 24 hours prior
  – Sponsor presents
  – Testimony in support and in opposition
  – Not recorded or broadcast

• Executive Hearing & Vote
  – Open to public observation only
  – Vote= Do Not Pass, Do Pass, Do Pass with Amendments, Do Pass a Substitute
Committee Process

Opportunities for Influence

✓ Influence which committee is assigned the bill.
✓ Chair is key! Review issues before hearing.
✓ Talk to all members - before the hearing.
✓ Prepare thoughtful, concise information for a handout or “brief.”
✓ Identify weaknesses and address them.
✓ Testify and/or coordinate others doing so.
✓ Can have bill included in a larger committee substitute.
✓ Politely but firmly request movement.
✓ Use (and support) your sponsor.
Floor Debate

• Perfection Calendar
  – Debate on Floor
  – Vote on Committee changes
  – Consider additional amendments
  – Vote for perfection. If approved, reprinted

Opportunities for Influence
✓ Key person is Majority Floor Leader
✓ Work out problems (if possible) before going to the floor
✓ Count votes - know who is voting for/against
✓ Prepare your sponsor and key allies for floor debate
Passage from 1st Chamber

• Third Reading
  – Recorded vote up or down
  – No debate, no amendments
• Report to other chamber for First Reading...process starts again

Opportunities for Influence
✓ Limited...follow up on any surprise votes.
✓ Prepare for second chamber...
Finishing Strong

- Reconciliation/Conference Committee
- TAFP = Truly Agreed & Finally Passed
- Governor’s Role...
Governor’s Role

• Message & Agenda Setting
  – Inaugural & State of the State
  – Proposes Budget
• Call for Special Session
• Response to Legislation
  – Sign, Veto, Line-Item Veto (budget), No Action
  – Veto Session
• Implementation

Opportunities for Influence
✓ Reach out to appropriate staff - 573.751.3222
✓ Engage in implementing the new law
Implementation of Law

- Agriculture
- Conservation
- Corrections
- Economic Development
- Elementary & Secondary Education
- Health & Human Services
- Higher Education
- Labor & Industrial Relations
- Mental Health
- Natural Resources
- Office of Administration
- Public Safety
- Revenue
- Social Services
Legislative Process - The Ballot

- “A vote of the people”

- Single-issue state statute or constitutional amendment

- Getting to the ballot
  - Legislatively Initiated: majority vote of both bodies, Governor doesn’t act
  - Citizen Initiated: file draft petition, collect signatures, certification of ballot measure

- Statewide campaign & voting

- [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov)
The Appropriations Process

• The Same, Only Different...

  Process by which state legislature funds the operations of state government

• State budget is $26.1 billion for state fiscal year 2016

• Funds include “general revenue” and other revenues
Appropriations Process - How It’s Different

- Budget bills only introduced in House
- Different committee processes and Conference Committee used to finalize
- Due to Governor one week prior to end of session
- Automatically have one year sunset, runs from July 1 to June 30
- Line item vetoes/withholding funds
- MO Constitution requires a balanced budget
Bill Tracking & Analysis

• General Assembly Website & Capitol Library
• News, MONA
• Health-related tracking and technical assistance
  – www.mffh.org/legislativeSession
Legislative Process - People

• Key Leaders
  – Speaker of the House Todd Richardson (R-Poplar Bluff)
  – President Pro Tem of the Senate Ron Richard (R-Dade, Jasper & Newton)
  – Majority Leader & Whips (House & Senate)
  – Committee Chairs
  – Minority Leadership
  – Your Legislators

• Influences
  – Elections, money, term limits
  – Leadership, margins, savvy, personality
  – Legislators are people, too…
Navigating the Missouri Legislative Process

Engaging Policymakers
Engaging Policymakers

1. Be an active, informed voter.

2. Learn your issue & who can change it.

3. Define a solution & understand how you fit into the landscape.

4. Build a relationship with your legislators & key leaders - before you need anything.

5. Be effective in meetings & giving testimony.

6. Media advocacy.

7. Don’t recreate the wheel - collaboration is key.
#1 - Be an active, informed voter

www.sos.mo.gov
#2 - Know your issue

- Fact-based research - what is actually going on?
- What laws or rules directly affect the issue you care about? Indirectly?
- What is the source of the related policy? What is the process to change it?
#2 - Sources (a beginning)

- johncombest.com (MO political news)
- mffh.org (“Sign Up” for Health Policy or other updates)
- covermissouri.org (health coverage info)
- Actual legislative sites: house.mo.gov & senate.mo.gov

- Nurse-focused sources

- National health policy information:
  - Kaiser Health News/Kaiser Family Foundation
  - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  - National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)
  - Commonwealth Foundation
  - Academic partners, e.g. MU Center for Health Policy, WU Brown School, Georgetown Policy Institute

- Other?
#3 - Define a solution

• What action is require by whom?
  – *Fix a problem, don’t push a solution*

• We don’t work in a vacuum → learn the field:
  – What is the recent history of this issue? Related political issues?
  – Who will support your issue? What are their available resources, messages, dealbreakers, etc.
  – Who will oppose your issue? What are their available resources, messages, etc.? Can you find common ground?
#4 - Building relationship

Start at the beginning: who are your legislators?

Enter your address at senate.mo.gov
Find your Legislators by entering a valid Missouri mailing address. Click Here to use Legislator Lookup with your 9-digit zipcode.

Street Address: 120 E. Nifong City: Columbia

Lookup Legislators  Clear Form

Your standardized address is:
120 E NIFONG BLVD, COLUMBIA, MO 65203-3732

Using this address, your local legislators are:

• Senatorial district 019 - Senator Kurt Schaefer
• House district 046 - Representative Stephen Webber
• U.S. House district 04 - Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler

Your statewide elected officials are:

• Governor Jay Nixon
• Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder
• Secretary of State Jason Kander
• State Auditor Nicole Galloway
• State Treasurer Clint Zweifel
• Attorney General Chris Koster

Your US Senators are:

• Senator Roy Blunt
• Senator Claire McCaskill
NEWS FROM SENATOR SCHAEFER

Weekly Legislative Update
May 01, 2015 3:25:10 PM
This week Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 was presented to and passed by the Select Committee on Commerce in the House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:
Appropriations, Chairman
Gubernatorial Appointments
Judiciary & Civil & Criminal Jurisprudence
Joint Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect
Joint Committee on Education
Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight
Joint Legislative Committee on Court Automation
Joint Committee on Government Accountability
Joint Committee on Legislative Research
Joint Committee on MO Healthnet
Joint Committee on Solid Waste Management District Operations
Missouri Film Commission
Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission

COUNTIES REPRESENTED:
Boone and Cooper
View District Map

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:
Elected to the Senate:
2008, 2012
Senator Kurt U. Schaefer was elected to the Missouri Senate in 2008 representing the citizens of the 19th senatorial district. Senator Schaefer is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and serves on the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence and Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment.

In addition to his legislative duties, Senator Schaefer is the former General Counsel and Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Special Counsel to the Governor, Special Counsel to the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Assistant Attorney General and Special Assistant United States Attorney.

As General Counsel and Deputy Director at DNR, he was responsible for all legal aspects of the State's Environmental Regulatory and Enforcement Agency, which also owns and manages the State's 83 state parks and historic sites, including litigation management, environmental, administrative, employment, personal injury, Sunshine Law and open records/meetings, contracts, and constitutional law.

Sen. Schaefer has litigated bench and jury trials of all kinds and complexities in numerous circuit and federal courts throughout Missouri and elsewhere. He has handled approximately 100 appellate actions before all three districts of the Missouri Court of Appeals and Missouri Supreme Court, and more than 90 administrative proceedings before various state permitting and licensing agencies and the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Senator Schaefer and his wife Stacia have three children and live in Columbia. He is a partner in the law firm of Lathrop and Gage LLP.

Schaefer has received the following awards for his legislative achievements:

2015

• Outstanding Legislator Award Missouri Pork Association and the Missouri Pork Industry

2014

• State Historical Society’s "Trustees’ Appreciation Award"
• Freedometer Award from the Concerned Women for America of Missouri
• Conservation Federation of Missouri - Conservation Legislator of the Year
• Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Influential Lawyer 2014 Award
Representative
Stephen Webber
District 046
Democrat

Committees:
- Select Committee on Budget
- Workforce Standards and Development
- Consumer Affairs
- Appropriations - Higher Education
- Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations
- Conference Committee on Budget

Capitol Address:
Address: MO House of Representatives
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 106-A
Jefferson City MO 65101

Legislative Assistant: Ronda Griggs
Phone: 573-751-9753
E-Mail: Stephen.Webber@house.mo.gov

Bills sponsored:
2015 (98th 1st Regular Session)
2014 (97th 2nd Regular Session)
2013 (97th 1st Special Session)
2013 (97th 1st Regular Session)
2012 (96th 2nd Regular Session)
2011 (96th 1st Special Session)
2011 (96th 1st Regular Session)
2010 (95th 1st Special Session)
2010 (95th 2nd Regular Session)
2009 (95th 1st Regular Session)
#4 - Building relationship

• Other ways to learn more about them:
  – senate.mo.gov & house.mo.gov
  – Campaign websites
  – News search
  – Social media (use #moleg & @MFHpolicy has list)

• Look for...
  – Personal, professional, & political background
  – Interest in & knowledge of your issue
  – How you are connected
#4 - Building relationship

- Campaign Opportunities

- In-District Opportunities
  - Personal introductions
  - Community calendar
  - Legislative update (from the legislator)
  - Invite him/her to your facility

- In-Capitol Opportunities
BEFORE YOUR MEETING

• Have a clear goal

• Research the person, the issue, and the landscape
  – Use this knowledge to inform who attends, materials you leave behind, location, etc.

• Make an appointment

• Practice what you will say
#5 - Effective Meetings & Testimony

**DURING YOUR MEETING**

- Relax!

- Be prompt & flexible

- Be organized & concise
  - Who are you?
  - Connect to the district
  - Be a plain-spoken expert
  - Leave behind 1-3 pages (include contact information)

- Be truthful...follow up is okay

- Make an ask...

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**“The Ask”**

*We need money, PLEASE.*

*Vote for the bill, PLEASE.*

*Come to this event, PLEASE.*

*Help convene a group to... PLEASE.*

*Introduce me to ... PLEASE.*
#5 - Effective Meetings & Testimony

AFTER YOUR MEETING

• Use the meeting as a starting point
• Follow up on anything you promised
• Write a note, tweet a picture, etc.

• Consider:
  – “I don’t know, I will get back to you”
  – “I forgot to tell you about...”
  – “THANK YOU”
#5 - Effective Meetings & Testimony

TESTIFYING

• For, against, informational, written

• Have written copies but don’t read

• Talk to the chair & sponsor(s)

• Meet with members prior to hearing

• Coordinate with other advocates

• Hearings posted online...and check the 3rd floor

• Arrive early, expect the unexpected, & stay professional
#6 - Media

- Traditional
  - Types
  - Cost
    - Paid/donated
  - Capacity

- New/Social
  - Types
  - Cost
  - Capacity

[Image of traditional media icons: Radio, Television, Newspaper, Direct Mail]
[Image of social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google, Instagram, YouTube, etc.]
#7 - Don’t recreate the wheel
Navigating the Missouri Legislative Process

Getting Started
Getting Started

✓ Meet your legislators
✓ Invite your legislators to an event
✓ Sign up for (a few) mailing lists for issues you care about
✓ Learn your issue & talk about what you learn
✓ Write a letter, email, tweet, blog post...
✓ VOTE
Meet & talk to policymakers

Jeff City

At home
Your Questions?
Contact

Thomas McAuliffe
Director Health Policy
(314) 345-5574
tmcauliffe@mffh.org
@MFHpolicy