

Working the Legislature/Congress

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California State Assembly

Objectives

- The Circle of Legislation
- Understanding The Legislator's Interests
- Building a Legislative Agenda & Program
- Identifying Legislative Resources
- Getting Legislation Passed

The Circle of Legislation



The Interests

THE LEGISLATOR

- Getting Elected
- Serve Constituents
- Leadership
- Raise Campaign Funds
- Knowledgeable

THE WATERSHED

- Healthy Environment
- Public Appreciation
- Natural Resource Use
- Program Funding
- Broad Understanding of Diverse Perspectives

Building Your Legislative Agenda

- Do you need the Legislature/Congress?
- What do you need from the legislator?
- What are the roadblocks to your goals?
- Do you share common concerns with others?
- Who has an opposing and supporting interest?

Building Your Legislative Program

- Determine Need for Legislation
- Identify Legislative Resources
 - Relationships
 - Information
 - Public Awareness
- Build Relationships – Allies & Opponents
- Understand Your Representative
- Develop Information Resources

Identifying Your Legislative Resources

- What are they?
- How do you find them?
- What is unique to you?
- How do you relate?
- Can you shape them?
- Can you create them?
- Review relationships, information & partners.
- Ask Questions.
- Tell your story.
- Visit your neighbors.
- Adjust others' resources.
- Use watershed process.

Getting Legislation Passed

- Education
 - Public, Legislator, Supporters, Enemies, Yourself
- Long-term Commitment
- Blizzard of High-Quality Information
- Advocate at Each Step
- Follow-up