

YES YOU CAN: UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

3rd Annual Summer Policy Institute
Tulsa, Oklahoma August 2, 2015

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OKLAHOMA JAZZ T

<EXIT>







targeted, drastic tax cuts

loopholes for wealthy companies

over- and middle-class families

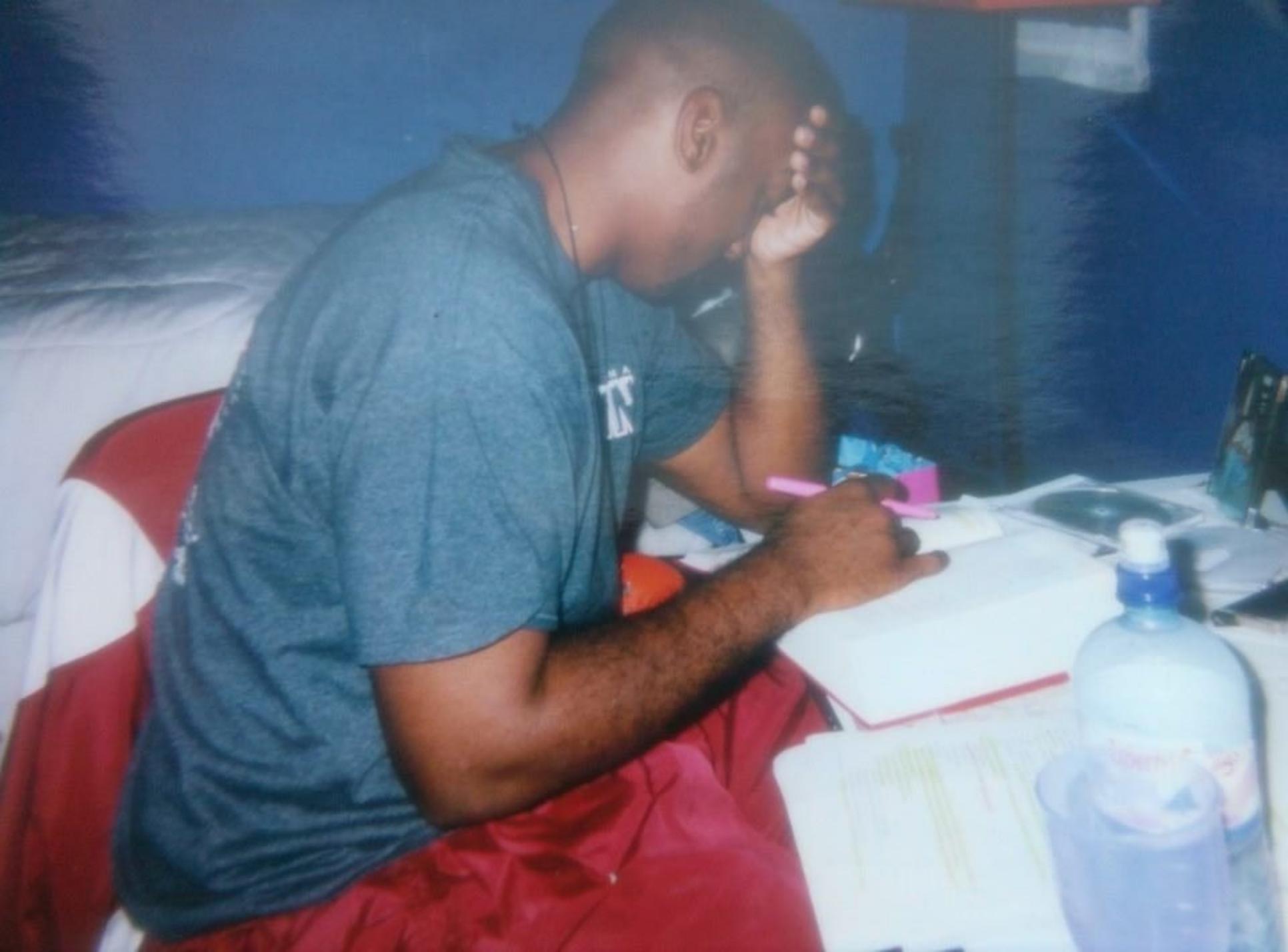


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Setting the tone
• look like
• sound like
No pain, no gain
winning love
winning is
LARGE TIME

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Fundamentals of the Legislature
- Players in the Legislative Process
- Steps in the Legislative Process
- Language of the Legislative Process

WORKSHOP FORMAT

- ENGAGING
- COLLABORATIVE
- REAL

THE FUNDAMENTALS



LEGISLATIVE FUNDAMENTALS



LEGISLATIVE FUNDAMENTALS

- Article V, Oklahoma Constitution
- Bicameral System
- Yearly Sessions
 - 1st Monday in February
 - Last Friday in May “Sine Die”
- State Capitol
- Create, Amend, and Abolish “Statutes”
- Power of the Purse
- 12 Year Term Limits
- 1st Law Passed???



HELP
WANTED
WHITE ONLY

THE OKLAHOMA PLAYERS



LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS

- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Governor
- Supreme Court
- Lobbyist
- The People



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 101 Members
- Led by “Speaker of the House”
- 2 Year Terms
- \$38,400 + Per Diem

SENATE CHAMBER



SENATE

- 48 Members
- “President Pro Tempore”
- 4 year terms
- \$38,400 + Per Diem



GOVERNOR

- Chief Executive
- \$147,000
- Four-Year Term
 - Two-Term Limit
- Proposes an Annual Budget
- Reviews Every Bill Passed by the Legislature
 - Approve by Signature
 - Approve by Inaction
 - Veto Entire Bill
 - “Line Item Veto”

PAY NO ATTENTION
TO THE MAN OUTSIDE,
SENATOR



LOBBYIST

- Counsel Clients on Potential Legislation
- Find “Sponsors” for Proposed Legislation
- Help or Actually Draft Proposed Legislation
- Marshal Member Support/Opposition
- Marshal Grassroots Support/Opposition
- Manage the Bill through Committee and “Floor Votes”
- Encourage/Discourage Governor Signing



SUPREME COURT

- Article 7, Sec. 4 Okla. Constitution
- Appointed to Life Time Terms
- Retention Ballot Every 6 Years
- Decides All Constitutional Issues
- Final Say on Legislation



POWER TO PEOPLE

- Volunteers
- Donors
- Voters
- “Constituents”
- Accountability
- Grassroots Lobbyist

ARTICLE 5 & 24 OKLA. CONST.

“...The people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to the constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the legislature, and also reserve power at their option to approve or reject at the polls any act of the legislature.”

INITIATIVE PETITION

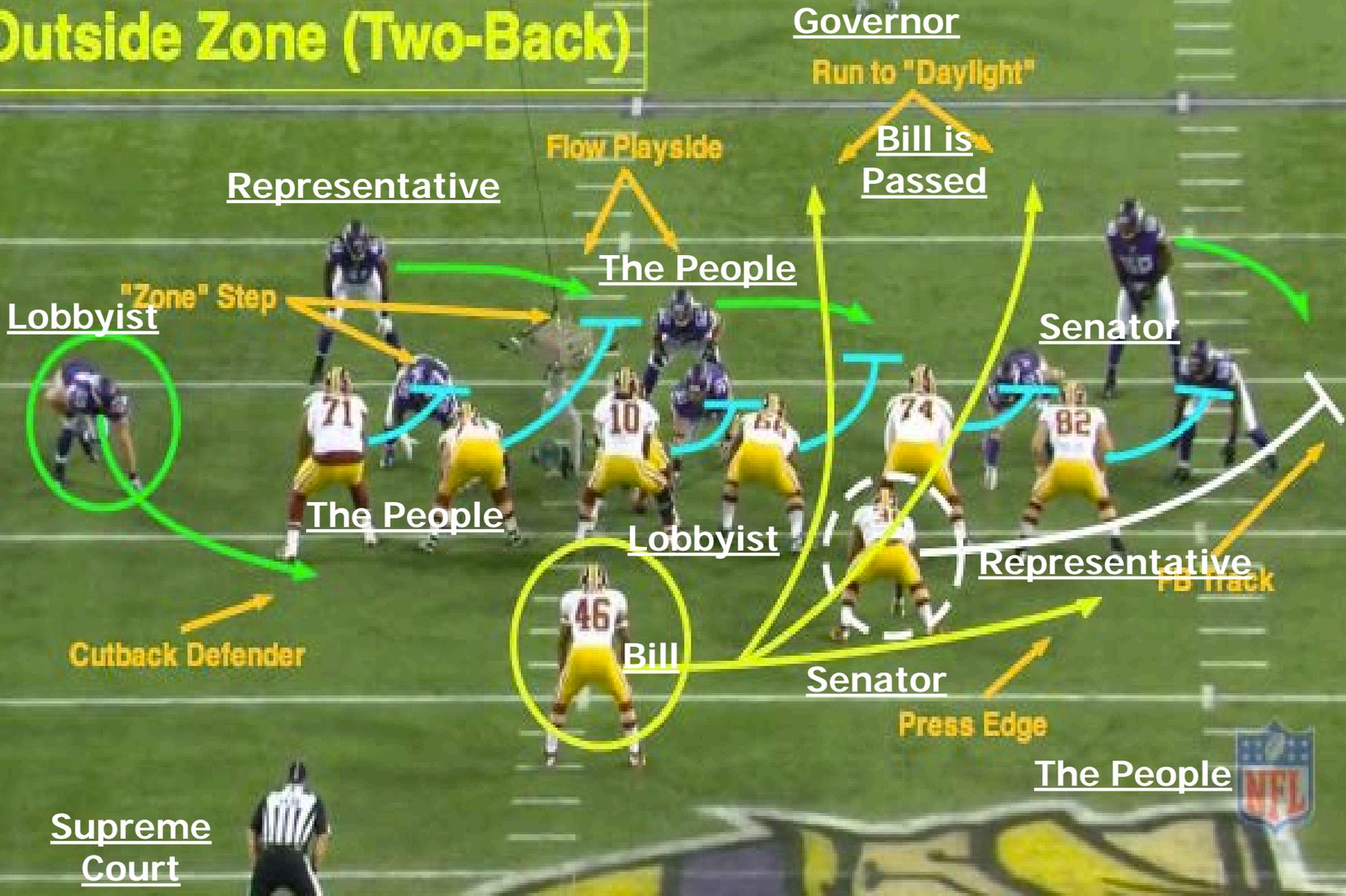
- Voters Right To Propose Legislation
- Requires Signatures of Voters
- SQ # 632 1990 12Yr Term Limits Vote
- School Tornado Shelters
- Medical Marijuana Usage

REFERENDUM PETITION

- Voters Seek to Change New Laws
- Challenge Must Be Filed w/ Sec. of State Within 90 Days of Session
- Requires Signatures of Legal Voters

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Outside Zone (Two-Back)



STEP 1: ORIGIN OF BILLS

ORIGINS OF BILLS

- Constituent Request
- Request of a Government Agency
- Request of an Interest Group
- National Model Legislation
- Governor Request
- Member Interest
- Interim Study

STEP 2: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

In the beginning...

A photograph of the Earth from space, showing the horizon and a bright sun on the left side, creating a lens flare effect. The text "In the beginning..." is overlaid in white on the dark blue and black background of the sky.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- Request Made Each December
- “First Reading” Start of Session
- “Second Reading” to “Committees”
- Bill Eligible for Full “Chamber” Vote

STEP 3: COMMITTEE HEARINGS



Committee Hearings



- Chair Decides If Bill Will Be Heard
- Testimony For/Against Bill Allowed
- Bill Can Be Amended
- Bill Dies If Not Heard
- Bill Dies Without Majority Vote
- Bill “Do Pass” With Majority Vote

STEP 4: GENERAL ORDER



GENERAL ORDER

- Bill Eligible for “Third Reading”
- Bill Dies If Not Scheduled to be Heard
- “House Calendar Committee”
- “Senate Majority Floor Leader”

THIRD READING

- Bill Explained by Author
- Bill Can be Amended
- Bill Can be Debated
- Bill Voted Upon
- Bill Dies Without Majority Vote
- Passed Bill “Engrossed”
 - Sent to Opposite Chamber



Oh God

not again...

OPPOSITE CHAMBER-DEJA VU

- Bill Goes Through Same Process
- Bill Can be Amended
- Bill Dies If Not Passed by Opposite Chamber

BILL PASSES 2nd CHAMBER



STEP 5a: Unamended

- “Enrolled”
- Sent to
Governor

STEP 5b: AMENDED

- Sent Back to Original Chamber
 - If Chamber Accepts Amendments
 - Bill Enrolled and Sent to Governor



STEP 6: AMENDED BILL DECLINED

- Sent to “Conference Committee”
- Bill Can be:
 - Accepted As Written
 - Conference Committee Substitute
- CC Creates “Conference Committee Report”
- CCR and Bill Dies If Not Passed by CC

CCR PASSES CC

- CCR Heard by Original Chamber
- CCR Can Not be Amended
- IF CCR Rejected, Bill Dies
- CCR Passes Bill Sent to Opposite Chamber

STEP 7: CCR-OPPOSITE

- CCR Can Not be Amended
- CCR Can be Rejected
- Rejected CCR Can Start Process Over
- Approved CCR Report Enrolled and Sent to Governor



Action by the Governor

- An enrolled bill approved by both chambers is transmitted to the Governor. The Governor can do the following:
 - Sign the bill into law within five days.
 - Allow the bill to become law by taking no action within five days when the legislature is in session.
 - Veto the entire bill. The legislature can override the Governor by a 2/3rd majority vote (68 votes from the House and 32 from the Senate). If the bill contains an emergency clause, the veto must be overridden by a 3/4th majority vote (76 votes from the House and 36 from the Senate).
 - Line-item veto spending items in appropriations bills. Such vetoes are similarly subject to being overridden by the legislature.
 - Following legislative adjournment, the Governor has fifteen days to sign the bill, veto a bill, or exercise a “pocket veto” by taking no action.

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- Steps in the Legislative Process
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QUESTIONS???



