

YES YOU CAN! UNDERSTAND THE LEGISLATIVE

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES



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- 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
- Bi-Cameral 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???

THE OKLAHOMA PLAYERS



LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS

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

LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS –HOUSE



LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS–HOUSE

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

LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS—SENATE



LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS–SENATE

- 48 Members
- “President Pro Tempore”
- 4 year terms
- \$38,400 + Per Diem
- Unique Responsibility
 - Advise and Consent on Governor Appointments

THE PLAYERS—GOVERNOR



LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS–GOVERNOR

- Chief Executive
- 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”

LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS-LOBBYIST

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PAY NO ATTENTION
TO THE MAN OUTSIDE,
SENATOR

LOBBYIST

VOTER



LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS-LOBBYIST

"Lobbyists are in many cases expert technicians capable of examining complex and difficult subjects in clear, understandable fashion... [and] serve a useful purpose and have an important role in the legislative process."

President John F. Kennedy

THE PLAYERS—LOBBYIST

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

LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS-SUPREME CT.



THE PLAYERS—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

LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS –THE PEOPLE



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

LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM

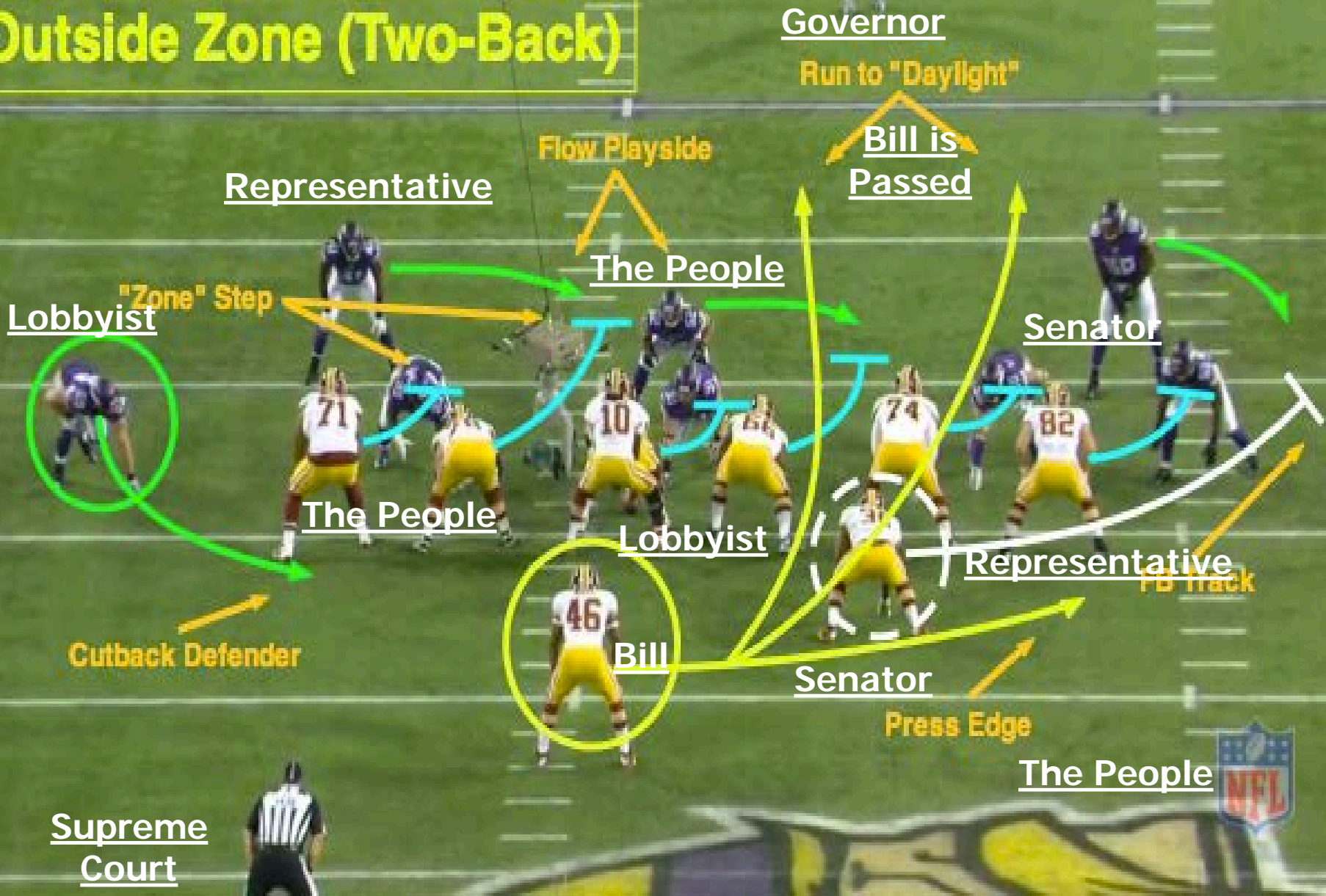
- Legislature Submits Proposed Bill to Voters
- SQ's 705 & 706
- Oklahoma Lottery

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 view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the atmosphere. A bright sun is visible on the left side, creating a lens flare effect over the horizon. The text "In the beginning..." is overlaid in the center of the image.

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”

DEJA VU



OPPOSITE CHAMBER-DEJA VU

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

STEP 5a: BILL PASSES 2nd



- Title On
- Un-Amended
- “Enrolled”
- Sent to Governor

STEP 5b: BILL PASSES 2nd CHAMBER

- 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
- CCR Rejected Bill Dies
- CCR Passes Bill Sent to Opposite Chamber

STEP 7: CCR-OPPOSITE

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



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???QUESTIONS???



