

**WELCOME!**

**¡BIENVENIDOS!**

# How to Advocate Virginia's Budget & Legislative Session 101

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TCI's 10th ANNUAL  
**POLICY SUMMIT**

DECIMA  
**CUMBRE POLÍTICA**  
ANUAL DE TCI

## VA Legislative Sessions

- They are *short* in duration.
- In even numbered years (non-election years) = 60 days
- In odd numbered years (election years) = 45 days
- The session may be extended by a 2/3 majority vote in both houses.
- Both the Governor and the General Assembly (with 2/3 majority vote in both houses) can call for a special session.

# House of Delegates

- **100 members; current split is 51 Ds; 48 Rs\***
- **2 year terms, no term limits**
- **Current speaker-elect: Don Scott (D-HD 88)**
- **Majority control means that minority party can't do much unless a few members in the other party agree**

\*HD 82 is currently undergoing a recounting process



Speaker-elect Don Scott

# Senate

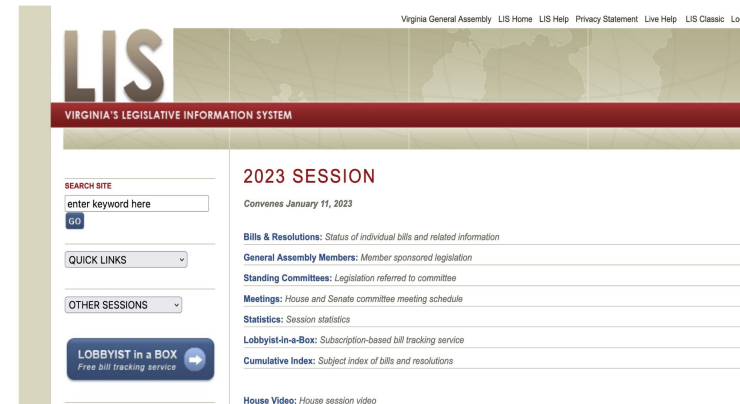


Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears

- **40 members; current split is 21 Ds; 19 Rs**
- **4 year terms, no term limits**
- **Sen. Lucas (D) is President Pro Tempore; Lt Gov Winsome Sears (R) presides over the Senate**
- **LG not merely a ceremonial role; Sears can break ties in certain instances**

# LIS Website

- **Best tool to track filed legislation, review list of members & their votes on bills, committee assignments, etc.**
- **Can look up past sessions to see how legislation fared; can also see prior fiscal impact statements / amendments / etc.**
- **Ability to sign up for automatic notifications for limited number of bills**
- <https://lis.virginia.gov>
- <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/index.php>

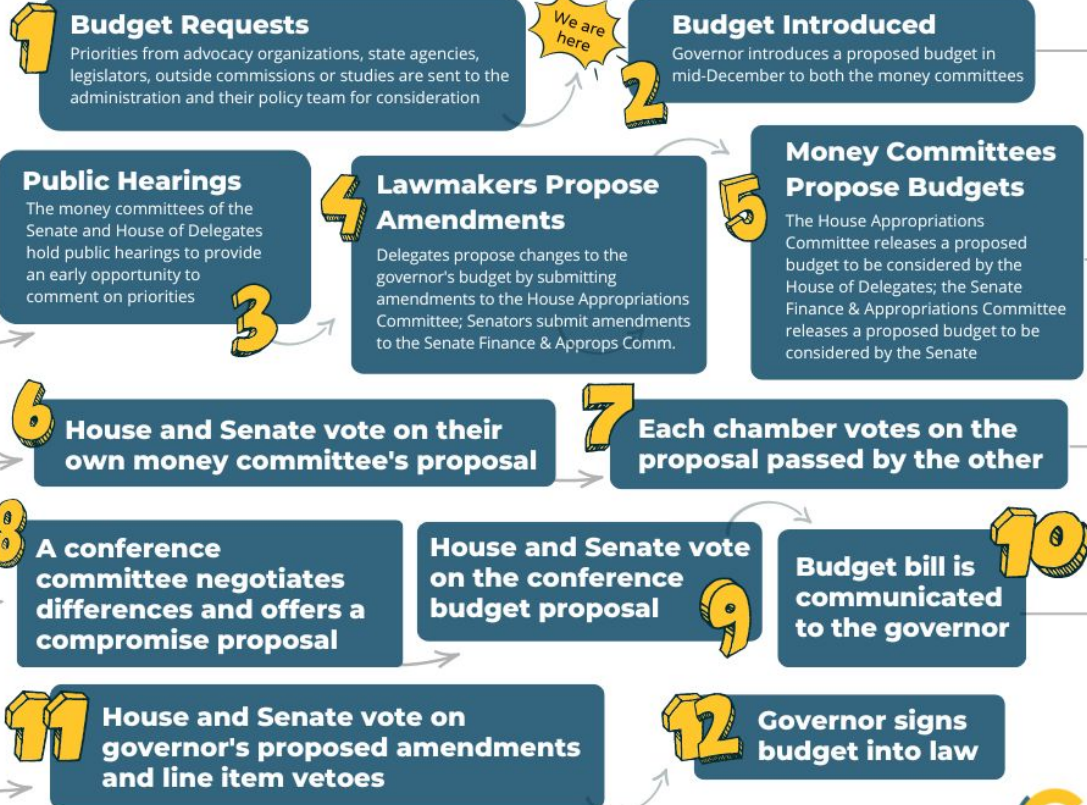


## Say what?

- **Pass by for the day:** a bill, even if scheduled for debate that day, will be brought up at a later date (allows time for changes)
- **PBI “Pass by Indefinitely”:** means the bill is dead, committee isn’t going to act on it.
- **Lay the bill on the table:** suspends debate on a bill, it can be restarted later, but that rarely happens, usually means gentle death
- **Crossover:** Deadline for each chamber to act on its own legislation
- **Reconvened:** Means the veto session, lawmakers return to consider Gov’s amendments and vetoes



# VIRGINIA'S BUDGET PROCESS



## The Budget Process

- **2 year budgets (i.e., the biennium)**
- **Caboose: amendments to the biennial budget because predictions of revenues can fall short or be more than what actually occurred.**

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AT EVERY STEP**



# Bringing Order to Chaos — TCI's Budget Sides

## Key Budget Policy Choices

Comparing House, Senate, and conference budget proposals to the current budget



### Proposed changes for FYs 23 & 24 compared to current budget

	House	Senate	Conference
Major Tax Policy Decisions			
Sports betting	Not included	Includes add'l revenues \$12.0m	Operators must include bonus & promotional amounts in adjusted gross revenue after 12 mo. of activity
Neighborhood Assist. Program & EISTC credits	Not included	Increases cap on NAP & Ed. Improve. Scholarship Tax Credit match; other changes -\$8.0m	Increases cap on NAP credits and reduces cap on EISTC (FY23 and FY24)
Housing tax credits	Not included	Removes \$15m cap -\$47.0m	Lifts cap to \$60m (CY22-CY25); adds add'l guidelines; incl. language to transfer Housing Trust Fund money to GF if losses exceed estimates
Accelerated Sales Tax	Moves elimination to FY22 in caboose	Eliminates Accelerated Sales Tax program -\$202.8m	Moves elimination to FY22 in caboose
Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Not included	Provides fully refundable EITC (20% of federal EITC) -\$420.0m	Provides partially refundable EITC (15% of federal EITC) <i>Approx. impact: -\$315m</i>
Military retirement benefits	Phases in exemption at \$20k (TY22), \$30k (TY23) & \$40k (TY24) -\$515.0m	Phases in exemption for those aged 60+ at \$5k (TY22), \$10k (TY23), \$15k (TY24) & \$20k (TY25) -\$149.0m	Phases in exemption for those aged 55+ at \$10k (TY22), \$20k (TY23), \$30k (TY24), and \$40k (FY25) <i>Approx. impact: -\$300m</i>
Sales tax on groceries and hygiene products	Eliminates state/local share of sales tax; backfills local rev. (eff. Jul 1, 2022) -\$1,009.1m	Eliminates state share of sales tax (eff. Jan 1, 2023) -\$372.4m	Eliminates state share of sales tax (eff. Jan 1, 2023) <i>Approx. impact: -\$370m</i>
One-time rebates	Provides \$300/\$600 to individuals/couples -\$1,251.4m	Provides \$250/\$500 to individuals/couples -\$1,048.6m	Provides \$250/\$500 to individuals/couples <i>Approx. impact: -\$1.0b</i>
Standard deduction	Doubles standard deduction to \$9k for individuals and \$18k for couples -\$2,095.6m	Not included	Increases deduction to \$8k/\$16k for individuals/couples; incl. lang. setting amts to \$7,500/\$15k if revenue growth not met <i>Approx. impact: -\$1.6b</i>
Fuels tax pause	Pauses recent fuels tax increase (FY23)	Not included	Not included

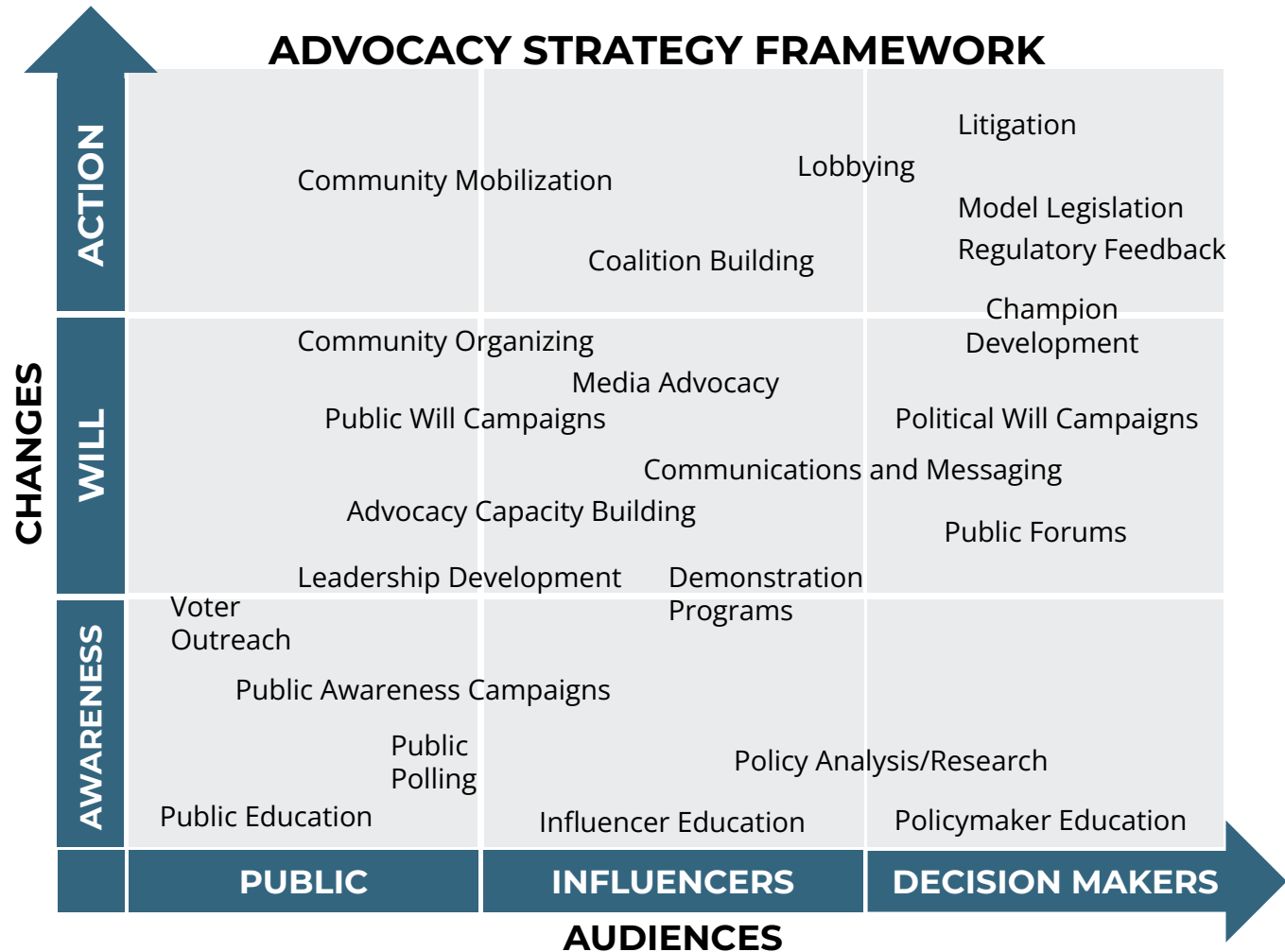


# Final Notes

- Budget can be a tool for policy change (e.g., language only amendments).
- What happens when budget conflicts a provision in VA's code? *Budget wins.*
- In general, new laws take effect on July 1 unless otherwise specified. Caboose budget bill takes effect upon Gov's signature.
- 501(c)(3) organizations can talk policy and can engage in lobbying on policy issues within certain limits and with required reporting. Bolder Advocacy is a resource on 501(c)(3) rules for advocacy.

# **Spilling the Advoca-TEA**

# ADVOCACY STRATEGY FRAMEWORK



This framework first appeared in Coffman, J. (2008). *Foundations and Public Policy Grantmaking*, prepared for The James Irvine Foundation.

# Advocacy During Session

- **Constituent meetings:** Meeting with lawmakers, testifying in committee
- **Take action:** Encouraging the public to take action on legislation (e.g., emailing, calling / texting lawmakers, attend a rally)
- **Make Your Voice Heard:** Social media outreach, op-eds, press interviews, press conferences, talk to a neighbor, etc.

# Building an Advocacy Campaign - A Case Study on EITC

- **2022 EITC Campaign:** Governor Northam had included EITC in his outgoing budget
- **Setting a Strategy:** Advocates worked to educate lawmakers in the State Senate about EITC and ensure that it was included in the final budget
- **Prioritize Parents:** Social media outreach, op-eds, press interviews, press conferences, centered in voices of parents

TAX FAIRNESS  
for Virginia

## Prioritize Parents Plan for Virginia:

Fund our schools

Refundable Earned  
Income Tax Credit

One-time tax  
rebate to parents



#PrioritizeParent

## Parents ask Youngkin to 'put families first' in upcoming budget review

Families struggling since the beginning of the pandemic want legislators to focus on parental needs in the upcoming state budget review Monday.





# Thank you.

Visit us at [TheCommonwealthInstitute.org](https://TheCommonwealthInstitute.org)

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# Resources

- <https://bolderadvocacy.org/>
- <https://lis.virginia.gov>
- <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/index.php>



# Questions?

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