

## SPActivity Worksheet: Legislative Process Overview Activities

The following opportunities were designed to give you a chance to incorporate skills from your CalSPAC Conference trainings into actionable practice. Many of these opportunities can be done in as little as 5 minutes. You are encouraged to choose opportunities that relate to your Home League and Subcommittee interests.

### OPPORTUNITIES IN AS LITTLE AS 5 MINUTES:

- Look up your state legislature's website and set it as a favorite on your computer.
- Look up the Congressional website and set it as a favorite on your computer. Links for the above sites can be found in *Opportunities Worksheet: Knowing Your Representatives*.
- Sign up for any applicable representative e-newsletters and peruse the archives for their latest themes and actions.
- Look up your decision-maker(s) phone number and email address and program it into your cell phone.
- Watch for CalSPAC and Political Solutions emailed alerts to learn about current actions and when your voice is needed to weigh-in.
- Explore the [www.CaliforniaSPAC.org](http://www.CaliforniaSPAC.org) website on past legislative actions and details on our current advocacy impact areas.
- Keep your eyes open to issues that you see affecting our Home League members and community partners, especially if they fall within any one of our issue-areas.
- Coordinate a "How a Bill becomes a Law" board game activity at an upcoming GMM. Distribute the game on a future Home League Member E-Blast and encourage folks to play.
- Email or call your local, state, or federal decision-maker about an issue you care about.
- Visit the website <http://www.vote-smart.org> to learn about how your representatives stand on issues you care about.

### OPPORTUNITIES IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES:

- Find a state or federal legislative issue that is important to you or your Home League and find one way that you can weigh-in to influence the process.
- Contact your policy-making Home-League committee (where applicable) to find out about the state and federal issues they are working on and where these bills are in the legislative process. Communicate that to the relevant subcommittee chair or CalSPAC Co-Chairs.
- Contact a partner organization with similar interests and approach them about relevant policy ideas for our There Ought to Be A Law campaign.

### OPPORTUNITIES IN ABOUT AN HOUR:

- Tour your state capitol building or city hall to learn more about how your decision-makers work and the decision-making process.
- Attend a local city council, county commissioner, or state legislative hearing, or congressional townhall meeting in your area on an issue that you care about.
- Complete the *Home League Legislator Profile* and distribute it to your League members at a GMM. Post the PDF on your League's member resource pages.

## How to Play

Enacting legislation is hard work, often frustrating and time-consuming. Here is a game that shows just how intricate and fraught with pitfalls the legislative process can be.

To play the game presented here, you need coins for markers and a die. Any number of people may play. Roll the die to determine order of turns. The game begins with each player choosing a topic and offering a bill for introduction. Then the player with the first turn places a marker on "Start" and rolls the die to determine how many squares to advance. Other players follow in the same manner until someone completes the course. May the lucky player reach the end unscathed. In real life, most legislators don't.

