

# SESSION KNOWLEDGE

Use this list of questions to document information about your state's legislature and legislative session.

## 1. WHEN IS THE LEGISLATURE IN SESSION?

- » Opening date?
- » When can bills be introduced?
  - What is the deadline for introducing a bill?
  - What is the process for introducing a bill?
- » What are the procedures for providing written and in-person testimony?
  - In the House?
  - In the Senate?
- » What is the Crossover date? A "crossover" deadline is the last day for a bill to pass out of the chamber in which it was introduced and move forward for consideration in the opposite chamber.
- » What is the deadline for a bill to pass both chambers?
- » Sine die? (The end of the legislative session and the last day to pass bills out of the legislature)

## 2. WHO ARE THE LEGISLATURE'S MAJORITY PARTY AND MINORITY PARTY LEADERS?

- » Senate president
  - Majority Whip
  - Minority Whip
  - Minority Leader
- » House Speaker
  - Majority Whip
  - Minority Whip
  - Minority Leader

## 3. WHAT PRO-DEMOCRACY BILLS HAVE PASSED PREVIOUSLY?

- » What were the bills?
  - What did they accomplish?
  - Who sponsored those bills?
  - Who submitted testimony for and against the bill?
  - What did the supporters and opponents of the bill write in their testimony about why they were for or against the bill?

## 4. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMMITTEES THAT CONSIDER DEMOCRACY-RELATED BILLS? USE OUR COMMITTEE ANALYSIS TEMPLATE TO HELP.

- » Who is the chair and vice-chair of those committees?
- » Who are the members of the committee?
- » Who is the chair of the subcommittee that considers democracy reform legislation?

## 5. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR A VETO OVERRIDE IF NECESSARY?

- » How long does the Governor have until action is required once a piece of legislation reaches them?
- » How many votes does it take to override a veto?

