



# **YES YOU CAN: UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

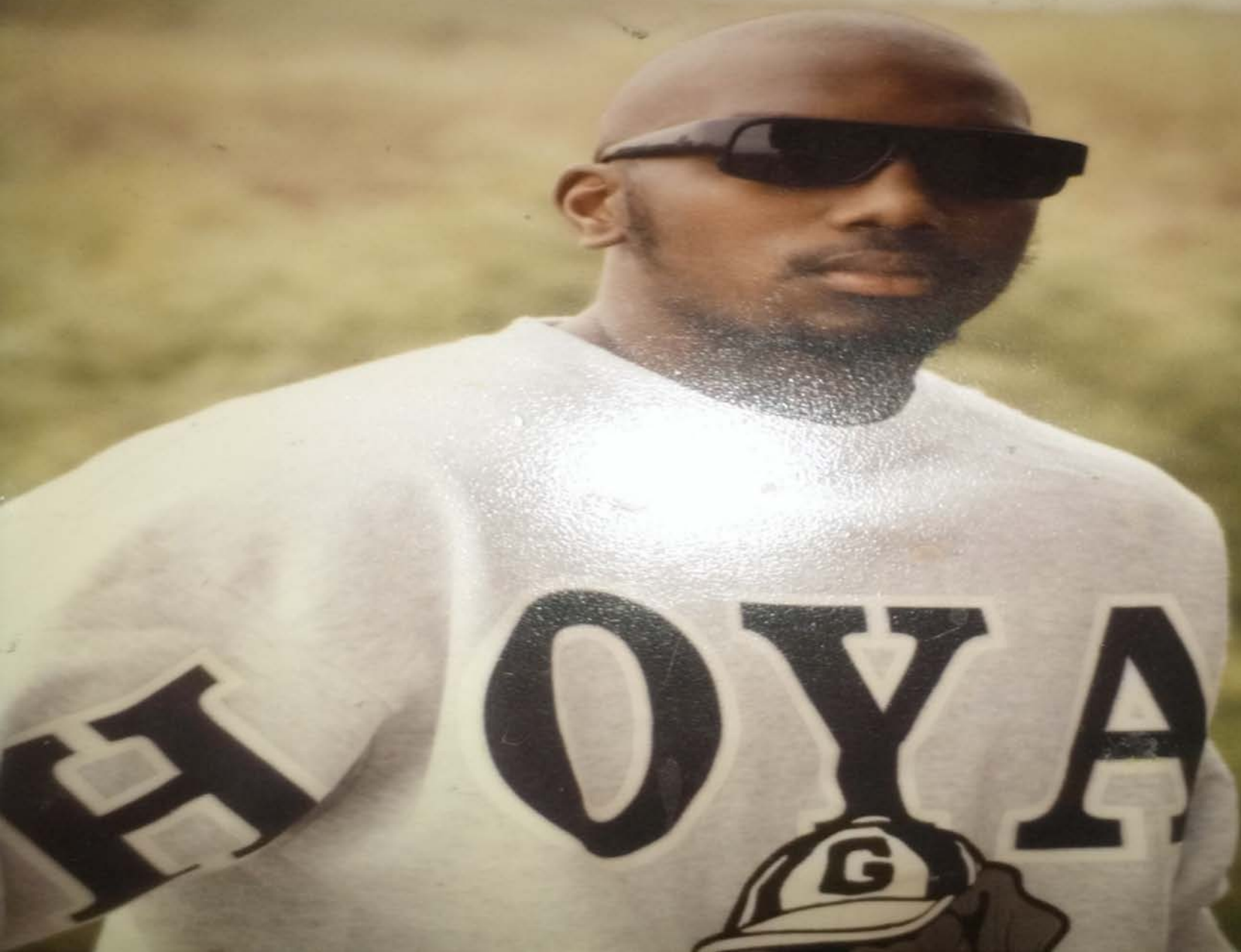
## **3rd Annual Summer Policy Institute**

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OKLAHOMA JAZZ

<EXIT>











targeted, drastic tax cuts

loopholes for wealthy companies

upper- and middle-class families

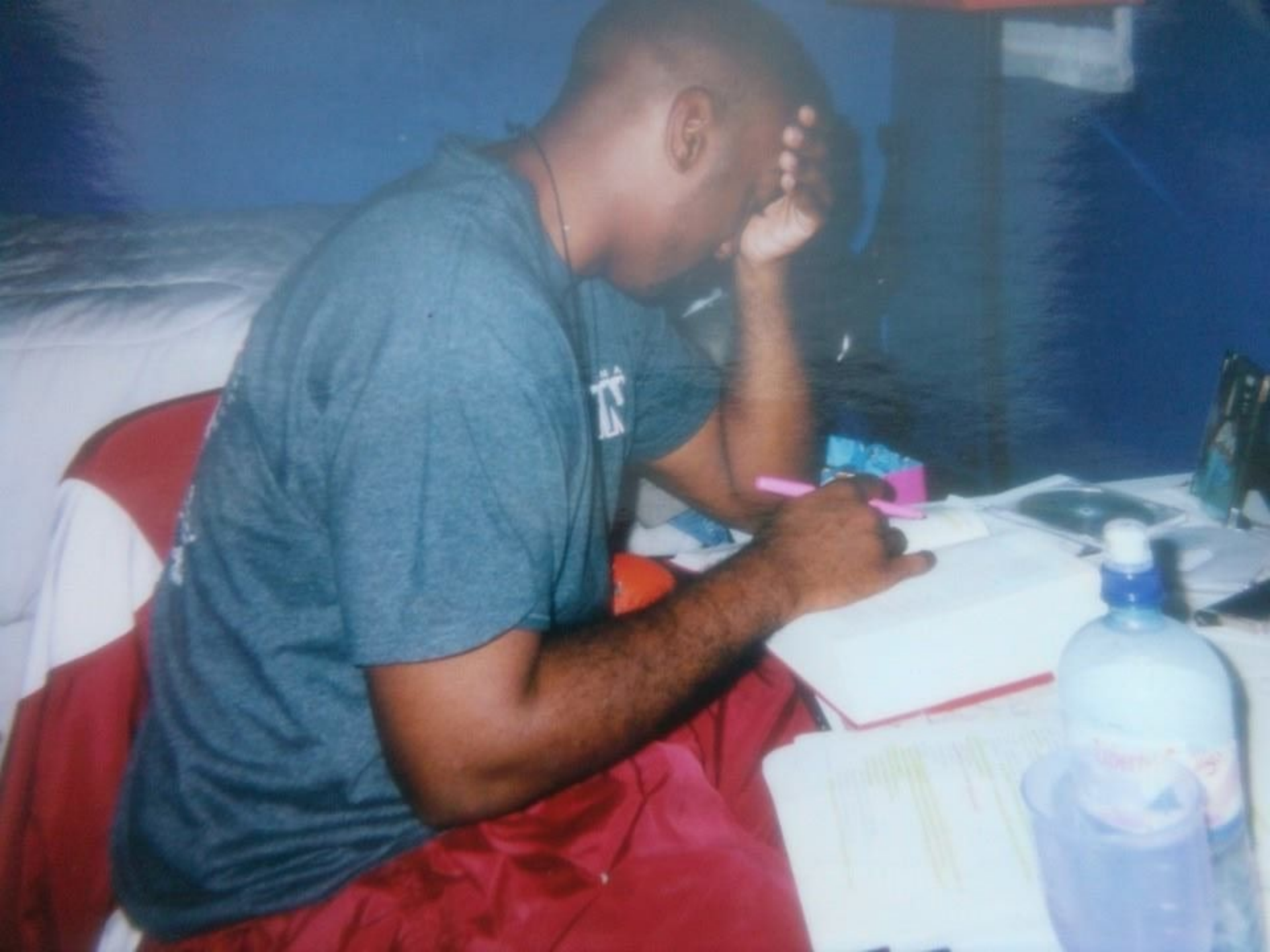
paying more



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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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in February
  - Last Friday in May “Sine Die”
- State Capitol
- Create, Amend, and Abolish “Statutes”
- Power of the Purse
- 12 Year Term Limits
- 1<sup>st</sup> Law Passed???





HELP  
WANTED  
WHITE ONLY

# THE OKLAHOMA PLAYERS





# LEGISLATIVE PLAYERS

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The image shows a detailed, classical-style entrance. At the top is a semi-circular pediment with a light blue sky-like background. Below this is a horizontal band with gold leaf. The central part of the entrance is a large rectangular panel with a gold border, containing the text "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" in a dark, serif font. This panel is flanked by two square pilasters with gold borders. Below the pilasters are two columns with blue and white marble patterns and gold capitals. The entrance itself is a dark doorway with a large eagle emblem on the wall above it. The eagle has spread wings and is perched on a globe, with a banner below it. The entire structure is framed by a large, ornate arch with gold leaf.



# 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

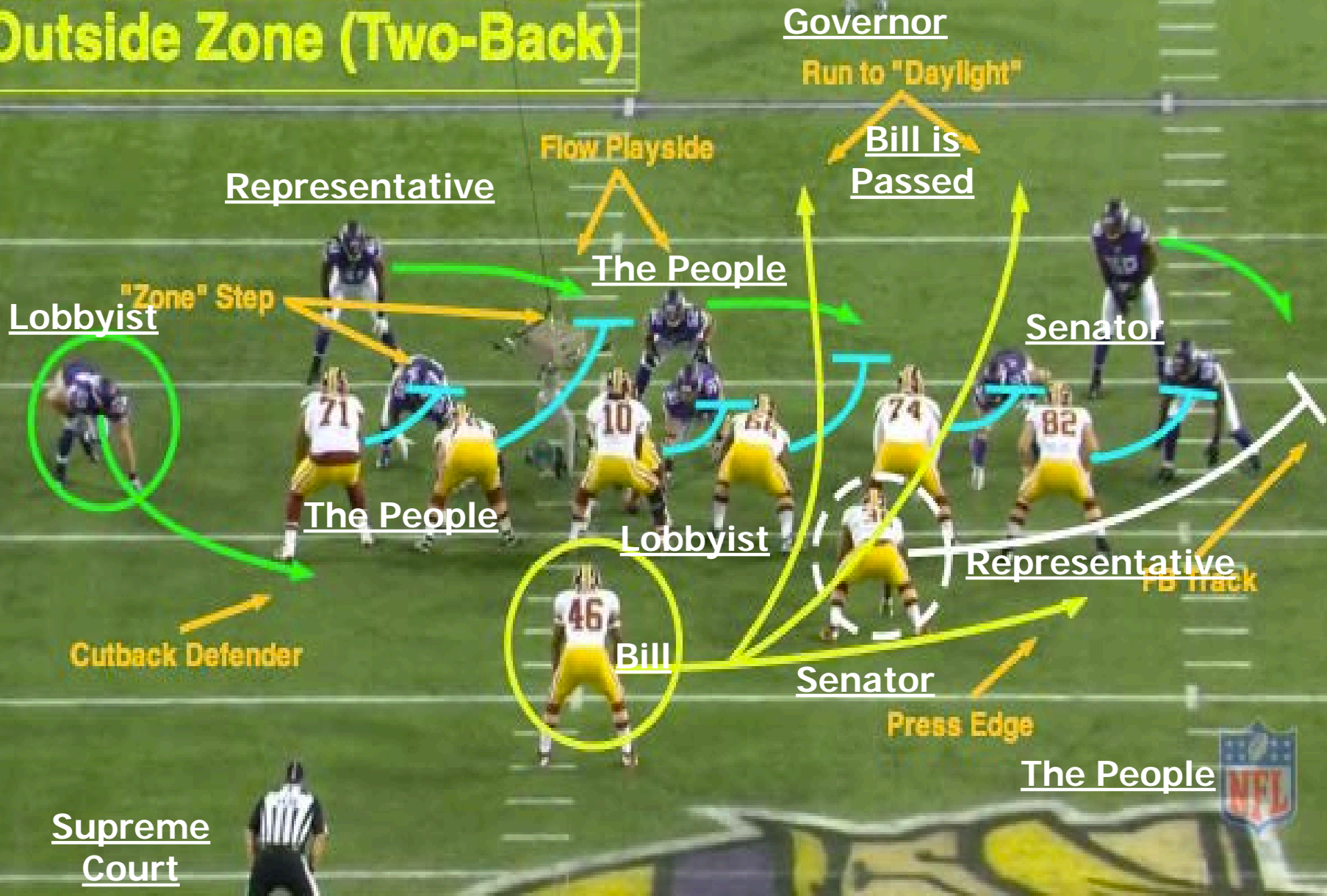


# REFERENDUM PETITION

- 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...

The background of the slide is a high-quality image of Earth from space. The horizon of the planet is visible, with a thin blue line of the atmosphere. To the left, a bright sun or star is partially visible, creating a strong lens flare that illuminates the scene with a warm, golden light. The rest of the sky is a deep, dark black.

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  $2/3^{\text{rd}}$  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  $3/4^{\text{th}}$  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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# QUESTIONS???





