

# 2024 The Legislative and Budget Process: January through March

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# Focus: Dates and Process

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At each LPPC meeting this year, we will walk you through important dates and next steps. You all will become experts on the legislative calendar and the legislative and budget processes!

- ✓ Learn About Important Dates
- ✓ Learn About Important Steps

# Legislative Process

## January

- **January 3<sup>rd</sup>** - the legislators return to Sacramento for the second of a two-year session.
- **January through mid February** - Legislators are busy introducing the bills they will champion this year.
- **January 31<sup>st</sup>** - the bills introduced last year that did not pass to the 2<sup>nd</sup> house. Example: our housing subsidies bill, SB 37 (Caballero).
- Assembly bills, or “AB,” start in the Assembly. If they paused in the Assembly then they must pass out of that house by the 31<sup>st</sup>. The same is true for Senate bills or “SB” that are still in the Senate. If these bills do not pass by the 31<sup>st</sup>, they fail.



# Legislative Process

## February

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- **February 16<sup>th</sup>** – Bill Introduction Deadline  
Bills cannot be introduced after the 16<sup>th</sup> except for some limited situations, such as a Governor announced emergency or special rules approved by the house.
- More than 1,500 bills are introduced every year!
- **30 Day Rule** – all bills must be published and available to the public for 30 days before they can be heard and voted on in a committee hearing. This rule is meant to give everyone a chance to understand the bill and have time to write the committee and support or oppose the bill. This means most policy committees will not be meeting at least until March 16<sup>th</sup>.

# Legislative Process

## March



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- Policy committees begin their committee hearings mid-March and all the way through the first week in May. A lot of work goes into preparing the staff and the voting legislators for each bill. This is their first chance to review and discuss the bills, sometimes making changes to improve them.
- LPPC will meet again in March, by then we will have a list of bills that impact our community, and we will review them with LPPC to make recommendations for the next Council meeting.

# Budget Process

## January

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- **On January 10<sup>th</sup>** every year the Governor releases his proposed budget for 2024 (July 2024 – July 2025).
- In the Council meeting later this month, our Executive Director, Aaron Carruthers will provide a quick review of the proposed budget. Nancy Bargeman from DDS will talk in detail about how the budget will impact that department. Remember, it is only a proposal, the Legislature will submit a final recommended proposal to the Governor in June.
- I can share some highlights from the Governor's press release.

# Budget Process February

- The Assembly and the Senate have their own Budget committees, these include subcommittees, which focus on different policy areas.
- Once the Governor's budget is released, the committees prepare for hearings in Feb, March, April and May. We are mostly impacted by the committees that specialize in **human services, healthcare and education.**
- SCDD staff track these hearings. Sometimes we are asked to testify on issues in their agendas, like employment, regional centers, or healthcare.



# Budget Process

## March

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- After the budget committees have their initial hearings and can cover the most important issues for the budget, they will pause until mid-May, when the state's financial status is made clear.
- Looking ahead - by **May 15<sup>th</sup>** the Governor releases an updated budget proposal, this is called "May Revise" and often includes more details than his January budget proposal. It will also include some information learned in the budget committee hearings.



# What Happens Next?

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- The next big date in the legislative process is in the **end of May**, when all the bills must pass to the second house, or they will fail.
- The next big date in the budget process is on the **15<sup>th</sup> of June**, when the Legislature must agree to a budget, vote on it in both houses, and if it passes, send it to the Governor.
- **After June**, there will be more budget related bills that make changes to the final budget and tell the state how to spend the money through the end of session, which ends at **midnight on August 31<sup>st</sup>** this year.



# Questions?