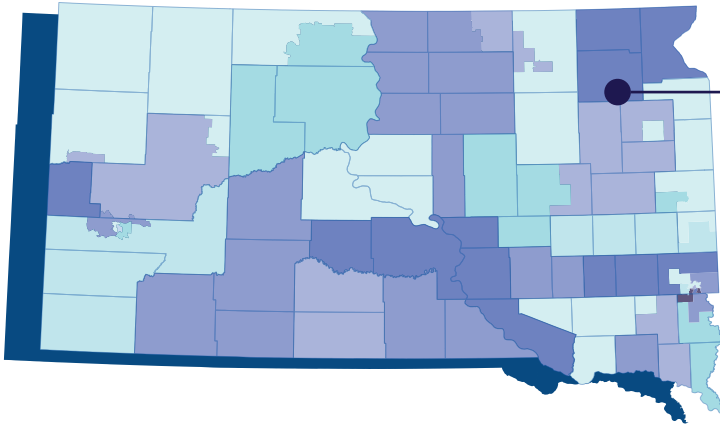


A stylized, low-poly illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored top, speaking into a megaphone. The background is a solid red color. The woman's face and the megaphone are rendered in shades of red and pink, creating a monochromatic effect. The overall style is modern and graphic.

# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A Guide to the South Dakota Legislature

# HOW THE LEGISLATURE WORKS



**35**

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

District boundaries  
change with the  
the U.S. Census



SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTS **35** AND **70**  
SENATORS REPRESENTATIVES

## LEGISLATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

DEBATING THE  
MERITS OF BILLS

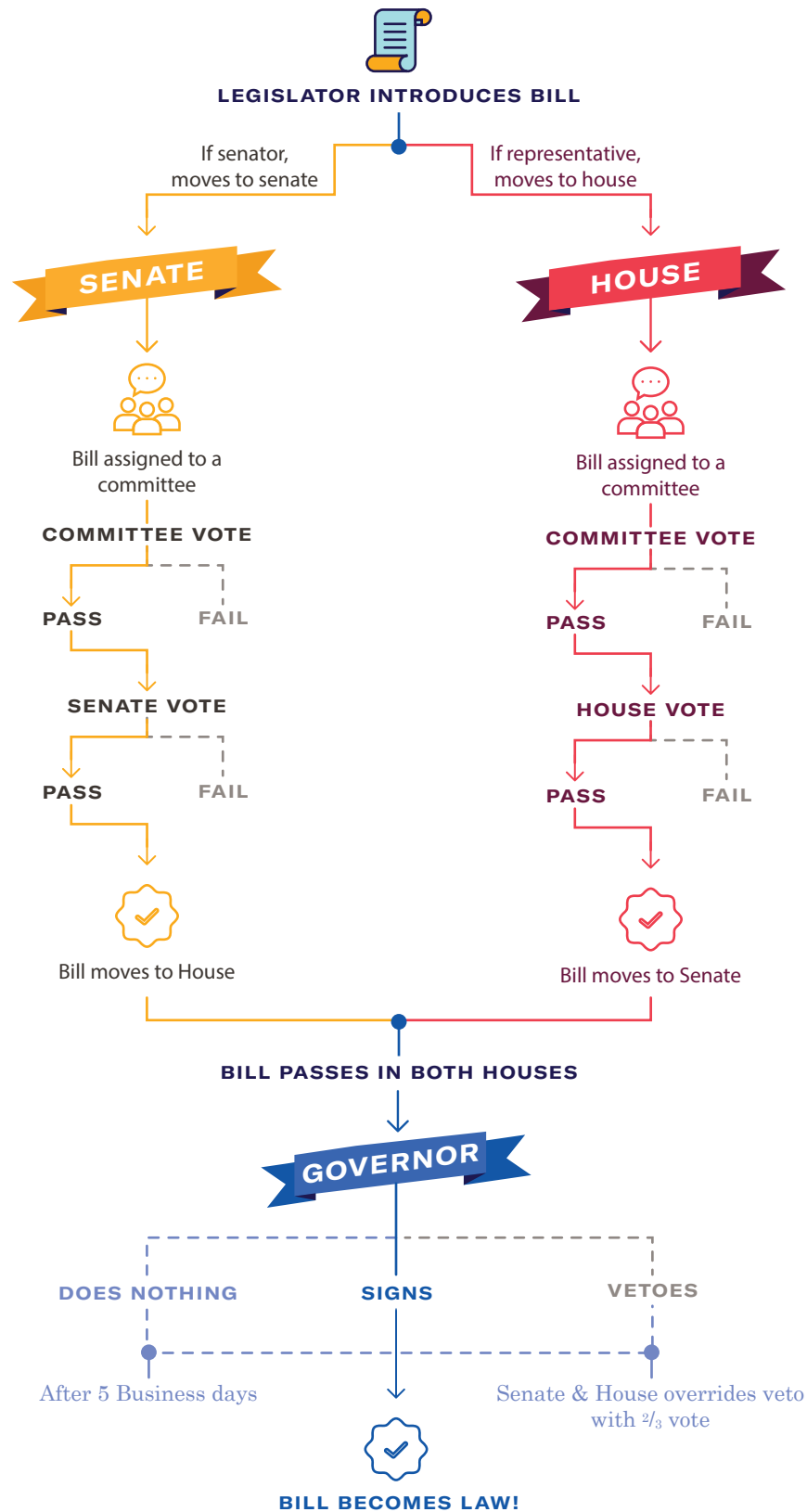


DRAFTING AND  
INTRODUCING BILLS

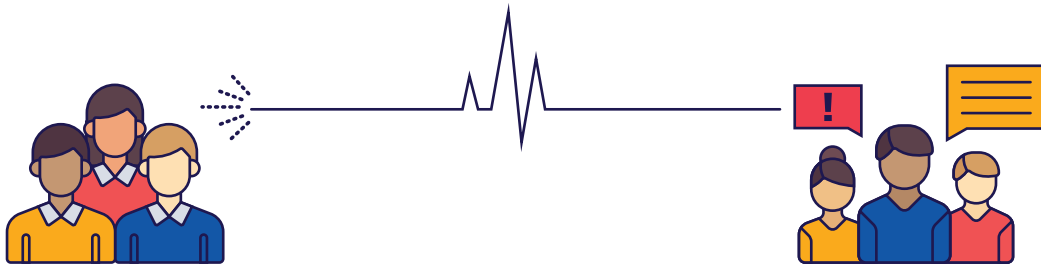


VOTING TO  
PASS OR KILL BILLS

# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



## ELECTED OFFICIALS

## CONSTITUENTS



If legislators don't hear from you, they assume you approve of their actions.

## WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR



### CALL THEM OR WRITE THEM



### MEET THEM IN PERSON

#### ✓ TIP 1

Know your district and name of your legislator

#### ✓ TIP 2

Plan out what you will say

#### ✓ TIP 3

Remember to mention the bill number (if there is one) and why you are calling or writing

#### ✓ TIP 4

Make it short and sweet and get to your point quickly

#### ✓ TIP 5

Tell a personal story they can connect to

#### ✓ TIP 6

Problem, solution, action (ie. "Vote yes on HB xxxx!")



#### STEP ONE

Schedule your meeting



#### STEP TWO

Be flexible and patient



#### STEP THREE

Prepare and educate yourself and establish a clear goal



#### STEP FOUR

Follow up and say thank you!



### FIRST THINGS FIRST, RESEARCH YOUR LEGISLATOR

[WWW.SDLEGISLATURE.GOV](http://WWW.SDLEGISLATURE.GOV)



CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS  
**EARLY AND OFTEN**

# IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY



## WRITE A **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**



### **SPREAD THE WORD**

Talk with friends and family on social media or in person. Don't be afraid to talk politics, it's important.



## WRITE AN **OP-ED**



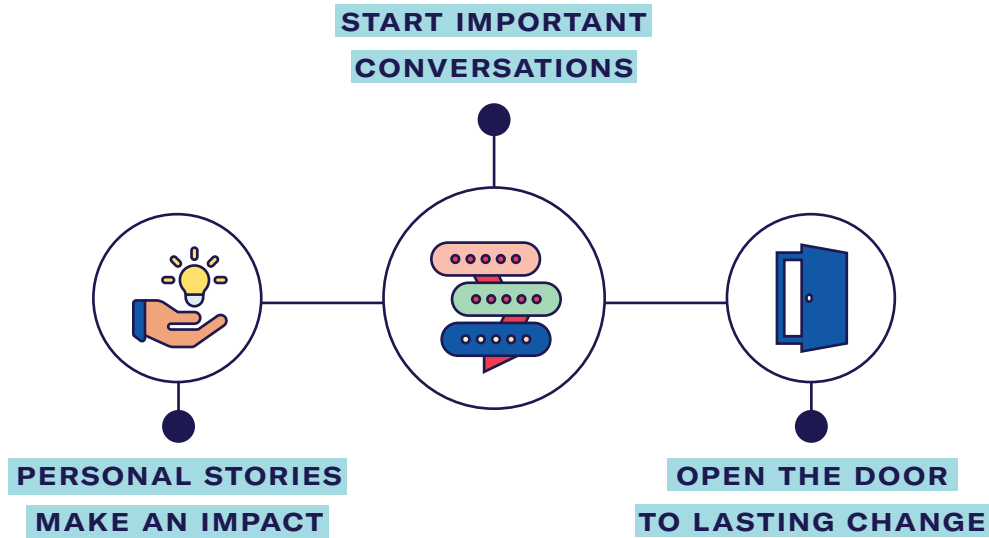
## JOIN A **CAUSE** OR ORGANIZATION

### → **ATTEND LEGISLATIVE COFFEES OR CRACKER BARRELS** ☕



## **PUBLIC MARCH** OR **PROTEST**

# WHY IS SHARING YOUR STORY IMPORTANT?



## SHOWING UP IS VITAL. NO MATTER HOW YOU DO IT.

Your efforts, stories, and voices  
are what will **chip away at the**  
**boulder of inequality.**



**ACLU**  
South Dakota