

LWV Dakota County

Member/Public Meeting
May 7, 2019



Meeting Agenda

- Welcome/Call to Order
- Nonpartisan Policy Reminder
- Featured Topic: Legislation 101: How an Idea becomes a Bill
- Observer Corps Update
- Panera Fundraiser - this Thursday!!
- LWV Dakota County Updates
- Wrap-Up



Nonpartisan Reminder

- Keep your comments non-partisan. **Talk about ideas – not partisan labels.**
- **Promote political actions that are not party-specific** such as researching a topic, educating voters or contacting lawmakers in general regarding an issue.
- **Refrain from endorsing or opposing specific candidates or elected officials.**
- **Only state facts, not judgments about the facts**, when it is not possible to avoid mentioning a specific candidate, lawmaker, or party.
- **Avoid discussing your individual activities supporting or opposing any candidate or party.**



Featured Topic:

Legislation 101 - How an Idea becomes a Bill

March 20, 2019 --

Schoolhouse Rock videos were added to the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry.

The Registry is a compendium of sound recordings deemed representative of America's artistic, cultural and historic treasures.



Featured Speakers:

Legislation 101 - How an Idea becomes a Bill

Karen Lenertz

Staff Attorney

Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Minnesota Legislature



Justin Emmerich

Legislative Assistant

Senator Nick Frenzt (SD19)
Minnesota Senate

HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

Karen Lenertz
Deputy Revisor
Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Minnesota Legislature
May 7, 2019

1939

Legislature created the Office of the Revisor of Statutes as a permanent agency under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Supreme Court to provide continual revision of the statutes.

1969

Revisor became publisher of the session laws and statutes as well as compiler and editor – formerly completed by Department of Administration.

1980

Legislature charged the Revisor with drafting of administrative rules and recompiling and publishing the administrative rules of the state agencies – first publication in 1983.

Legislature enacted first Minnesota Revised Statutes into law.

1945

Legislature removed the Revisor from the judicial branch and made the office subject to the newly created Legislative Coordinating Commission – now the Revisor is subject to direct legislative control.

1973

QUICK JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

STAFF STRUCTURE

- ~46 full-time staff
- Seasonal session staff



WHO WE ARE TODAY – CHAPTER 3C

- Legislative document drafting
- Legal advice to legislature
- Final form approval for **all bills** before introduction
- Official editor, compiler, and publisher of laws, statutes, & rules
- Engrossment and enrollment for House and Senate desks
- Presentment to the governor
- Administrative rule drafting and approval
- Drafting manuals
- Court opinions report

WHAT THE OFFICE DOES



- Draft bills, rules, & amendments
- Confidentiality
- Legislative process expertise
- Technology
(tracking/databases/searches)
- Quality control
- Revisor's bill

Bicameral

- 134 House of Representatives
- 67 Senators

To Become Law

- House and Senate must pass identical bill, and
- Governor must sign or not veto, or Legislature may override if vetoed

MINNESOTA'S CORE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

WHEN THE LEGISLATURE MEETS

- Legislature operates on a two-year legislative cycle
- Legislature takes action on the state budget in the odd years (2019)
- Legislature takes action on the bonding bill in even years (2020)
- Bills are alive for two years until the end of the biennium
- The current 91st regular legislative session began January 8, 2018 and will end May 18, 2020
- Legislature cannot meet in regular session past the first Monday after the third Saturday in May
- Governor can call special sessions

FROM IDEA TO LAW

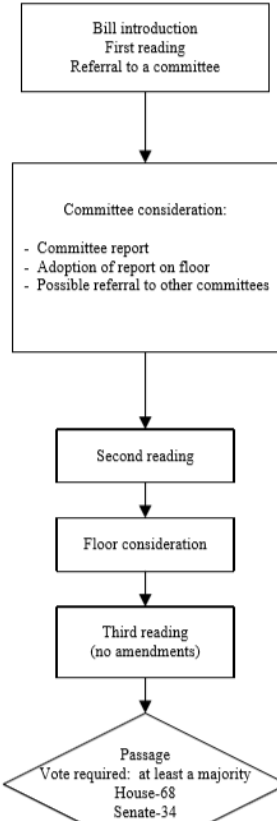
- Individuals & Constituents
- 134 Representatives & 67 Senators
- Professional Associations & Interest Groups
- Governor & Government Agencies

DRAFTING IDEA INTO BILL

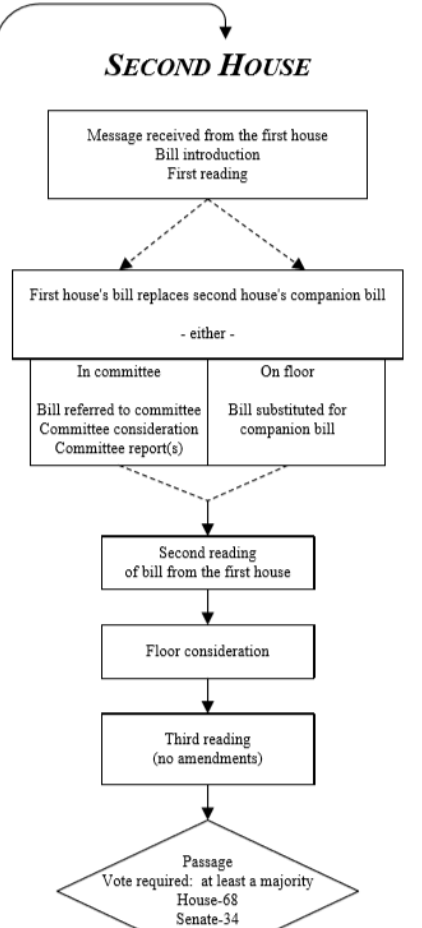
- Revisor's Office is only statutorily authorized drafting office for state agencies
- But, drafting for legislative members and constituents done by:
 - Revisor's Office
 - House Research
 - Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis
 - Other resources:
 - Internal: Caucus staff, Leadership staff, Fiscal analysts, Committee administrators
 - External: Bar Association, Uniform Law Commission, lobbyist

Overview of the Legislative Process

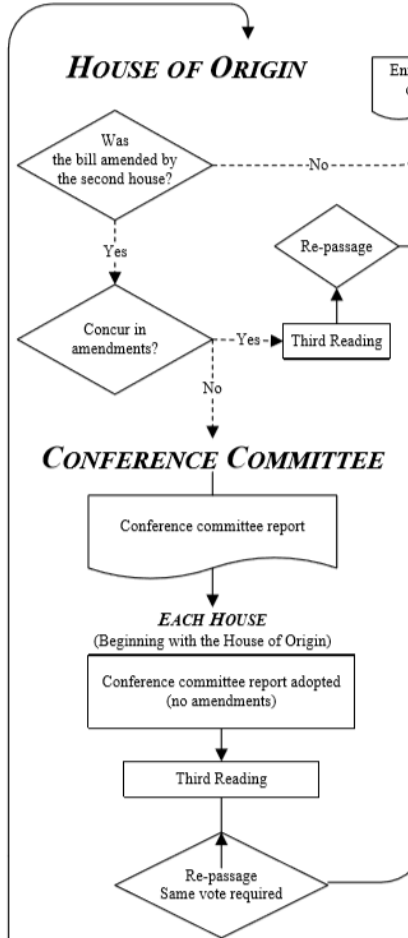
HOUSE OF ORIGIN



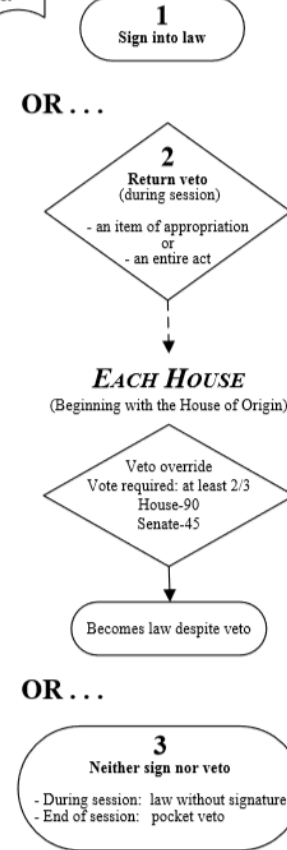
SECOND HOUSE



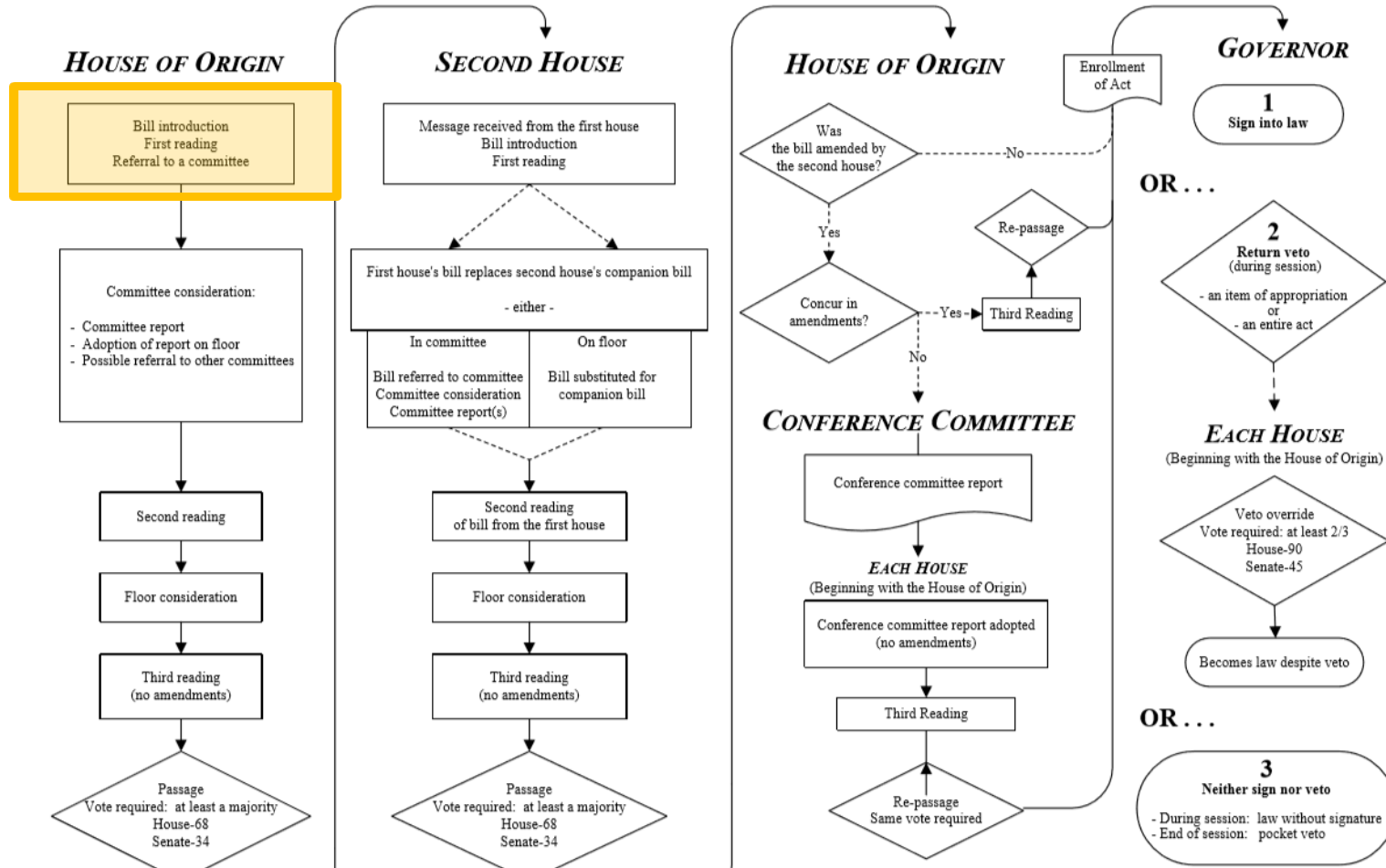
HOUSE OF ORIGIN



GOVERNOR



Overview of the Legislative Process



BILL INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

**I'M
JUST A
BILL!**



- ❖ Bills must be approved by the revisor before they are introduced in the house and senate.
- ❖ Jackets
- ❖ Deadlines
- ❖ Assigned house file and senate file
- ❖ First reading & committee referral

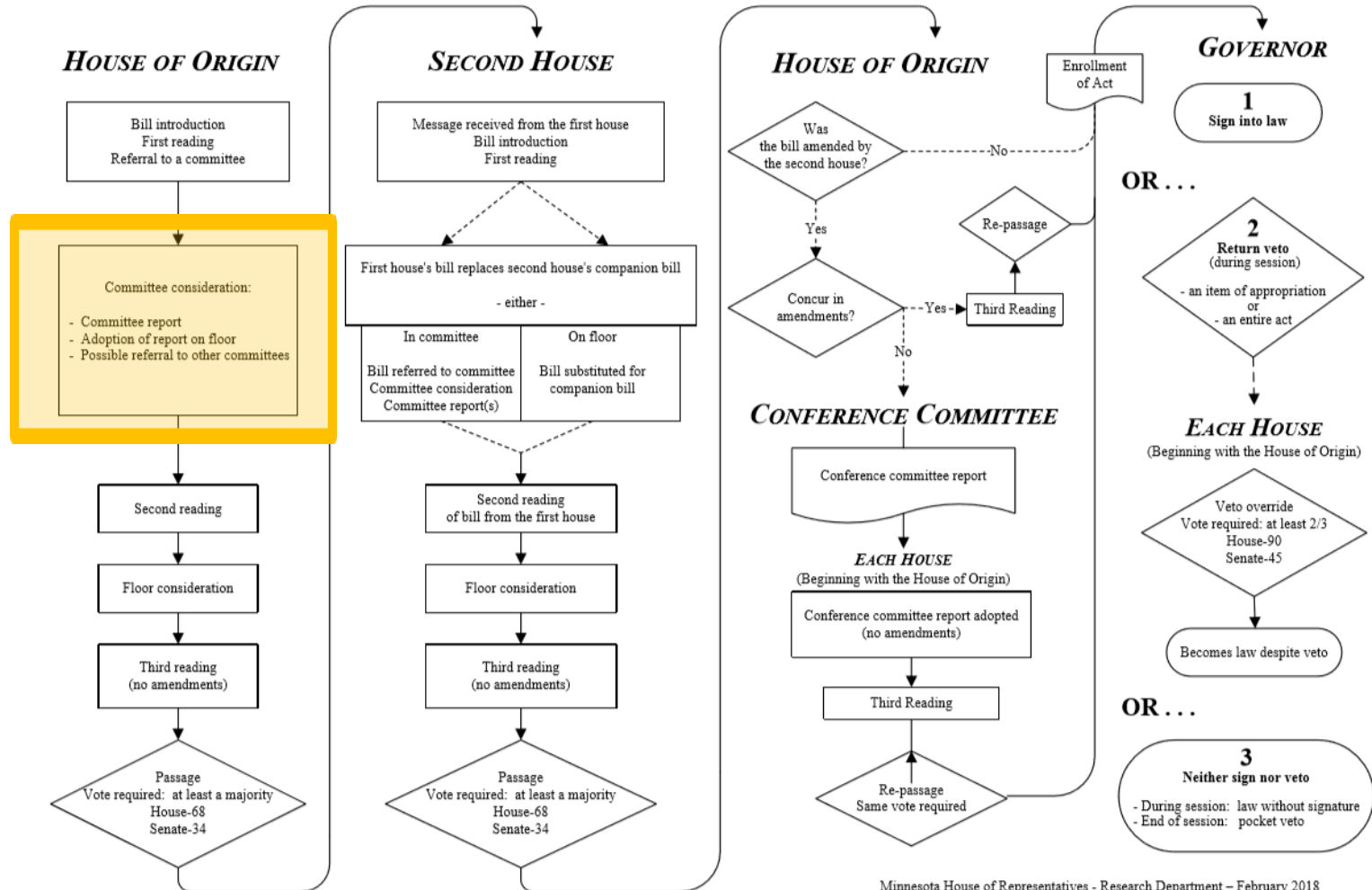
TERMINOLOGY

Bills are proposals to create new law, change or repeal existing law, or propose an amendment to the constitution.

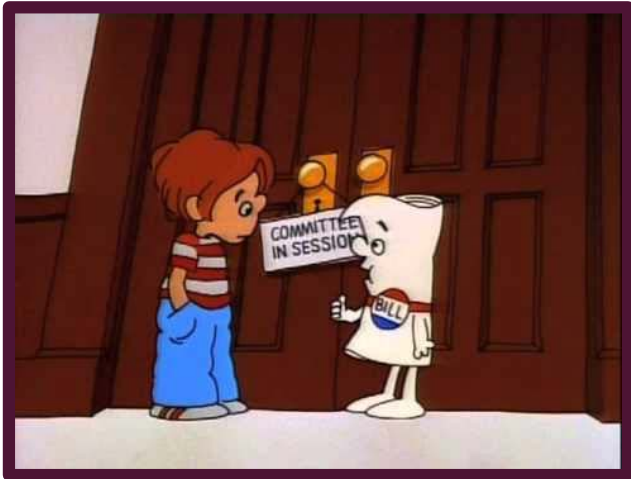
Drafts are simply working documents of bills, amendments, or other documents before a revisor number has been assigned for the document.

Author is the legislator sponsoring and introducing the bill.

Overview of the Legislative Process



COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION



A committee's job is to review and discuss the bill and to make recommendations to the full body. Committee passage of a bill results in the creation of a *committee report*.

The revisor's office prepares committee reports for the house only. The senate prepares their own and sends the reports to us for *engrossing*.

AMENDMENTS

- ❖ May be offered by a member of the legislature in a committee or on the floor of the house or senate.
- ❖ Two types:
 - ❖ Page-and-line amendment
 - ❖ Delete-everything amendment (aka delete-all amendment)

TERMINOLOGY

Amendment is a proposal to add, omit, or alter the language of a bill that has been introduced in the legislature.

Committee report is an official release of a bill or resolution from committee with (or without) a specific recommendation, such as “pass,” “pass as amended,” or “do not pass.”

Engrossment is a version of a bill that incorporates amendments to it that have been adopted by the house of origin of the bill.

Unofficial engrossment is a version of a bill that incorporates amendments to it that have been adopted by the body that is not the house of origin of the bill.

Overview of the Legislative Process

HOUSE OF ORIGIN

Bill introduction
First reading
Referral to a committee

Committee consideration:

- Committee report
- Adoption of report on floor
- Possible referral to other committees

Second reading

Floor consideration

Third reading
(no amendments)

Passage
Vote required: at least a majority
House-68
Senate-34

SECOND HOUSE

Message received from the first house
Bill introduction
First reading

First house's bill replaces second house's companion bill

- either -

In committee

Bill referred to committee
Committee consideration
Committee report(s)

On floor

Bill substituted for
companion bill

Second reading
of bill from the first house

Floor consideration

Third reading
(no amendments)

Passage
Vote required: at least a majority
House-68
Senate-34

HOUSE OF ORIGIN

Was the bill amended by
the second house?

Yes

Concur in
amendments?

Yes

Third Reading

No

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference committee report

EACH HOUSE

(Beginning with the House of Origin)

Conference committee report adopted
(no amendments)

Third Reading

Re-passage
Same vote required

Enrollment
of Act

GOVERNOR

1
Sign into law

OR ...

2
Return veto
(during session)

- an item of appropriation
or
- an entire act

EACH HOUSE

(Beginning with the House of Origin)

Veto override
Vote required: at least 2/3
House-90
Senate-45

Becomes law despite veto

OR ...

3
Neither sign nor veto

- During session: law without signature
- End of session: pocket veto

THE FLOOR

Second reading

- After bill has gone to all necessary committees
- Goes on General Register (house) or General Orders (senate)

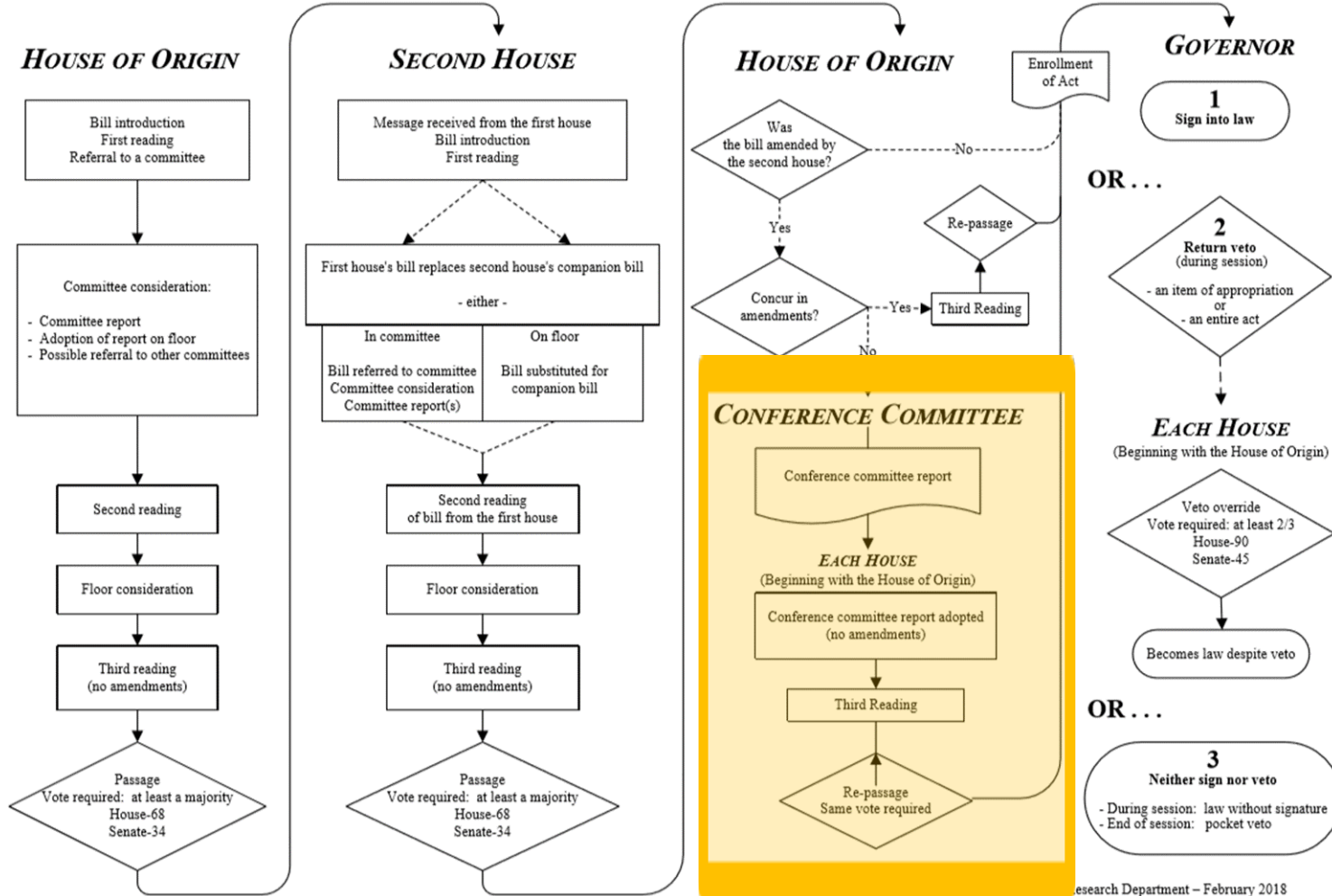
Floor consideration

- Author presents the bill
- Amendments may be offered

Third reading

- After the body is finished revising text of bill
- Vote on passage

Overview of the Legislative Process



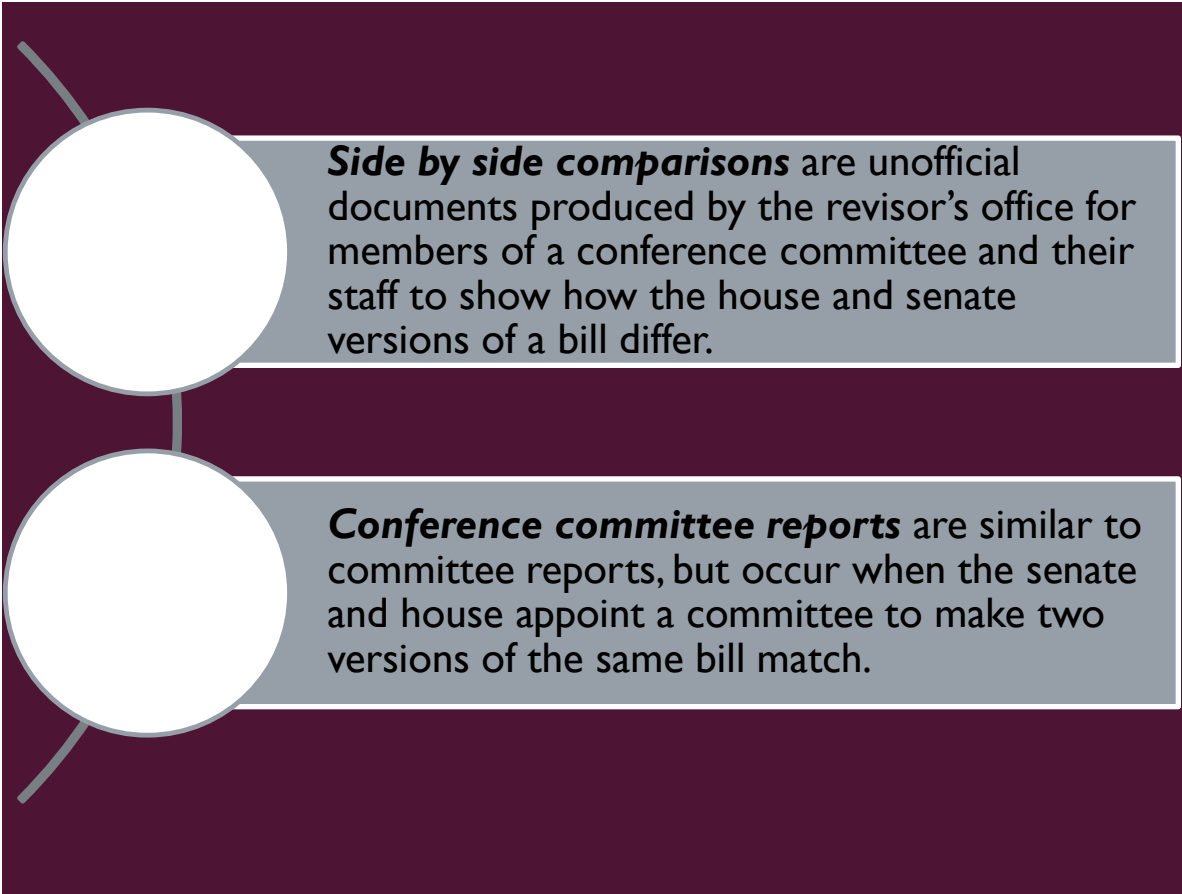
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The house and senate often pass different versions of the same bill. But the constitution requires that the same bill must pass both bodies in identical form.

A *conference committee* occurs when members of each body are appointed to a special committee to make the different versions of the bill the same.

If the members of the conference committee, or *conferees*, reach agreement to resolve the differences in the bill, a *conference committee report* is produced.

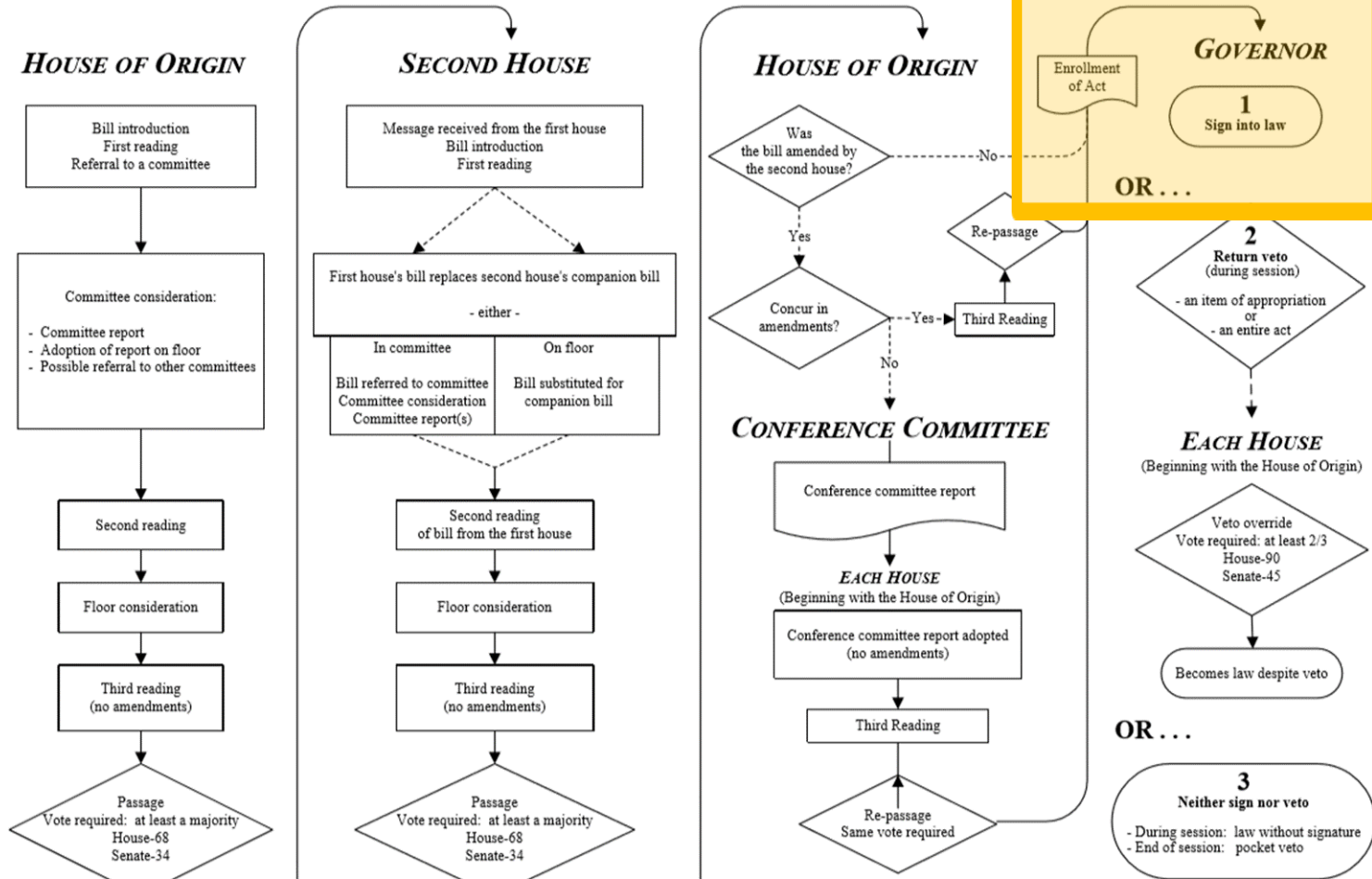
TERMINOLOGY



Side by side comparisons are unofficial documents produced by the revisor's office for members of a conference committee and their staff to show how the house and senate versions of a bill differ.

Conference committee reports are similar to committee reports, but occur when the senate and house appoint a committee to make two versions of the same bill match.

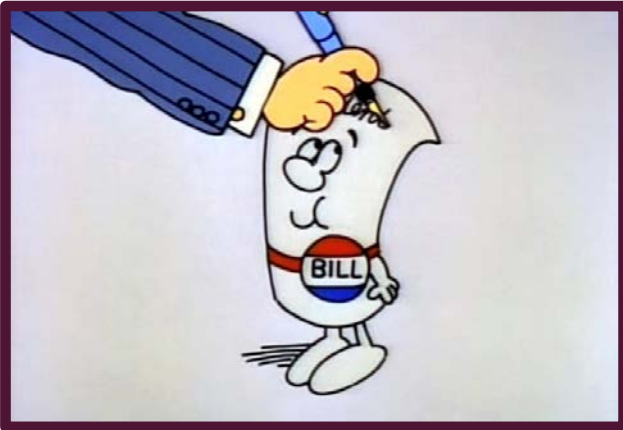
Overview of the Legislative Process



ENROLLMENT & PRESENTMENT

The process of *enrollment* transforms “a bill for an act” into an “enrolled act,” so that presentment to the governor can be made. Our office acts as an agent of the legislature to present the governor with an act.

GOVERNOR'S OPTIONS



The constitution gives the governor a certain number of days to respond to an act presented by the legislature.

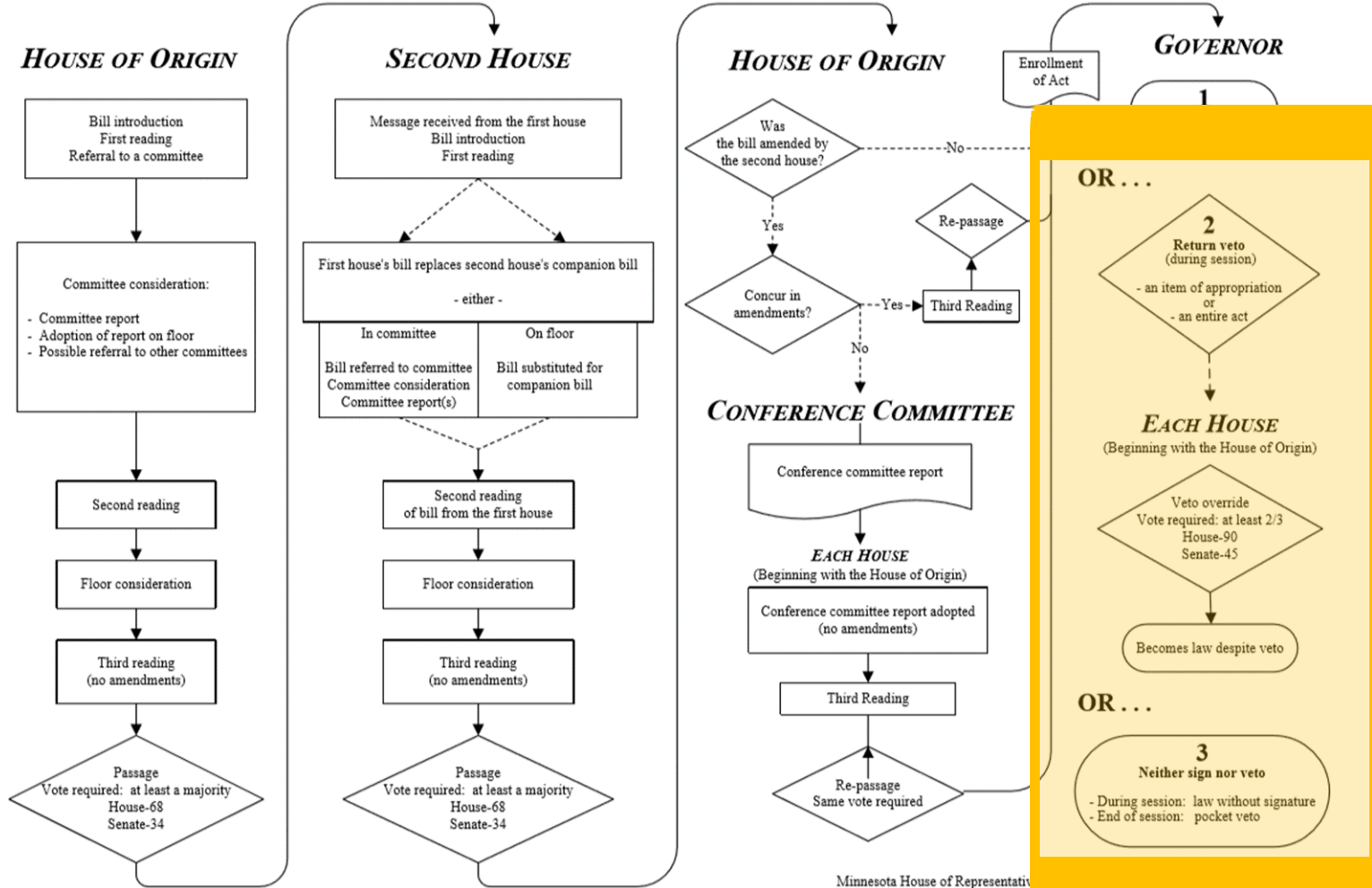
The governor may sign or veto the legislation within the time allowed.

THE POCKET VETO

❖ What if the governor does neither? It depends on:

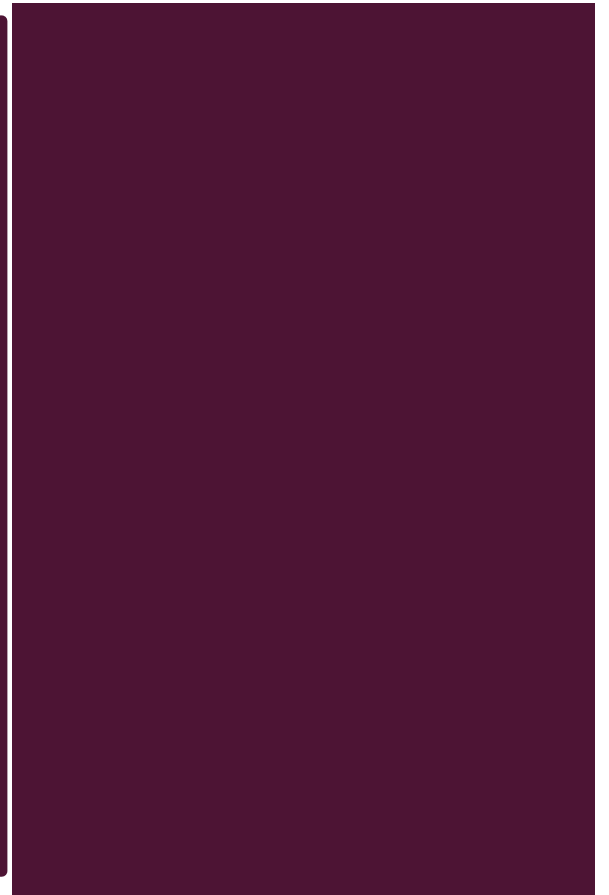
- (1) when the act passed the legislature—whether before or during “the last three days of a session” and
- (2) whether the legislature is still in session when the governor’s time expires.

Overview of the Legislative Process



OVERRIDE VETO

- ❖ The legislature may enact the proposal into law anyway, despite the governor's objections. When the legislature overrides a veto, the legislature deposits the legislation, now a law, in the office of the secretary of state.
- ❖ An override must be accomplished before the session ends
- ❖ Overriding a veto requires the support of two-thirds in each house



EDITING & PUBLISHING

- ❖ Official editor, compiler, and publisher of Laws, Statutes, & Rules in books and on Internet (www.leg.state.mn.us)

Even
Year

- Full statutes publication
- Rules supplement

Odd
Year

- Full rules publication
- Statutes supplement



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Legislature: www.leg.state.mn.us

Revisor of Statutes: www.revisor.mn.gov

House of Representatives:
www.house.leg.state.mn.us

Senate: www.senate.mn

Legislative Reference Library:
www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl



Panera Fundraiser - Thursday, 5/9!!



- **Thursday, May 9, 2019**
- 4:00-8:00 pm
- Panera Bread, Apple Valley, 15052 Gleason Path (Cty Rd 42 & Cedar)
- **IMPORTANT:** Must present flyer at time of ordering (in-person or online)
- Matching gift opportunity for each flyer presented!
- Spread the word! Share with your friends and family!

Observer Corps Update

Co-Lead: Anne Koutnik



- **Planning Commission:** Monthly or as necessary; 4th Thursday at Western Service Center
 - County Park Updates
- **Community Service Agency:** Monthly on Tuesdays, 9:00am, Room 139, Western Service Center
 - Emergency Shelter Updates
 - Kresge Foundation Grant
- **Physical Development:** Monthly on Tuesdays, 10:00am following Community Service Agency, Room 139, Western Service Center
 - OPEN HOUSE CLIFF ROAD STUDY - Monday, 5/13/19, 4:30-6:30pm, Lebanon Hills Visitor Center
 - CSAH 70 Expansion Project



Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) Update

Delegate: Holly Jenkins

- Outcomes of Recent Consensus Study on Met Council Governance
- CMAL Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 1, 2019, Ridgedale Library
 - 9:30 Coffee/Refreshments
 - 10:00 Keynote Speech by Nora Slawik, Chair of the Metropolitan Council, with Q/A
 - 11:15 Box Lunch break (registration required) - optional
 - 11:30 Annual Business meeting - optional
- Additional CMAL Delegate
 - Interested in regional issues (ie: affordable housing, transportation, parks, equity issues...etc.)? Consider being a CMAL delegate!



LWVDC Book Club

Lead: Donna Powell



- Meets every other month, 6:00-7:30 pm at Burnhaven Library in the small conference room
 - **6/27/2019** - How Democracies Die by Steven Levitsky (320 p)
 - **8/22/2019** - Overload: Finding the Truth in Today's Deluge of News by Bob Schiefer (216 p)
 - **10/24/2019** - When Republicans were Progressive by Dave Durenburger (296 p)
 - **1/23/2020** - The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels by John Mechan (416 p)
 - **4/2/2020** - One Person No Vote by Carol Anderson (288 p) ***Note: 1st Thursday of April*

Action Items



- **Dine at Panera on Thursday, 5/9!**
- Join LWV and tell a friend! **(Everyone is on the membership committee!)**
- Volunteer and get involved! (sign up at the Opportunities table)
- Sign up for LWVMN Capitol Letter
- Sign up for LWVUS and LWVMN Action Alerts
- Follow us on our website, on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



Wrap Up

- Next LWVDC meeting will be **Tuesday, June 4th**, location Burnhaven Library, social time beginning at **5:30 pm** and regular meeting beginning at **6:00 pm**. The topic will be “State Legislative Recap” with guest speaker Nick Harper, LWV Minnesota Civic Engagement Director
- ****Members** please drop your name badge at the check-in table
- Adjourn

See you next time!

