

## Advocacy 101





Your voice matters

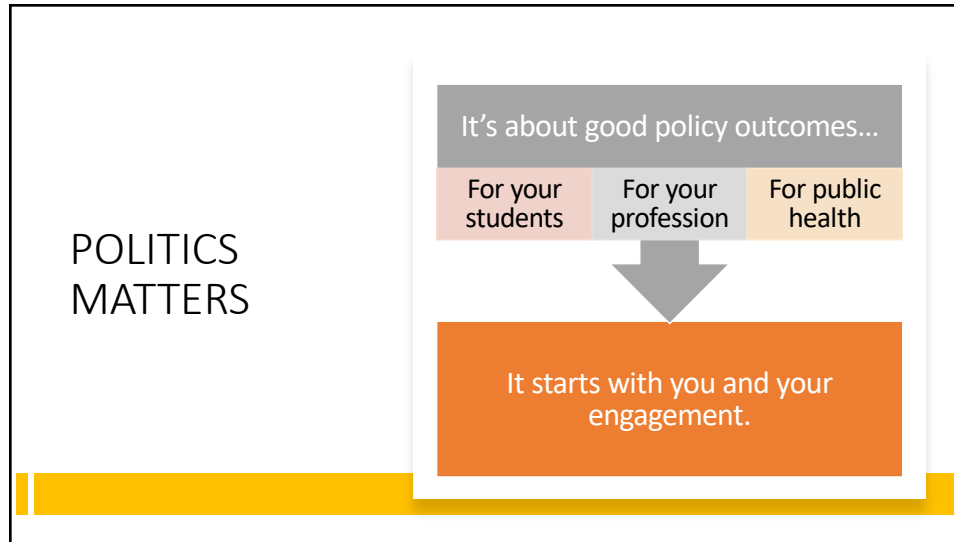


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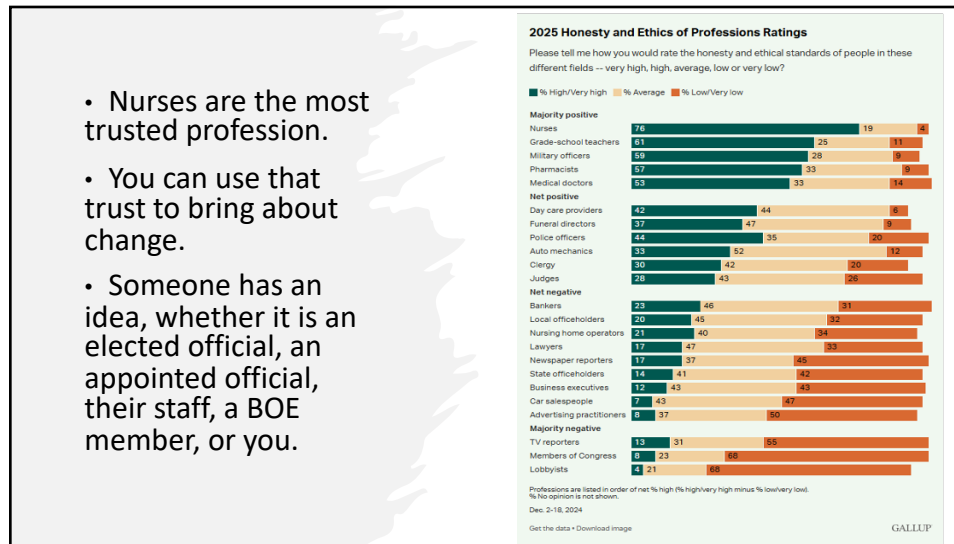
As a certified school nurse, who makes decisions for you about....

-  Staffing?
-  Sports physicals?
-  Which medication you can delegate?
-  What licensure you must have?
-  What screenings students must have?
-  Emergency procedures you must follow?

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# How Policy is Made

- The legislative process
- The code/regulatory process
- Executive orders
- Court decisions
- Federal requirements
- Emergent issues

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## UPPER HOUSE



- Senate
- 40 Senators
- Four-year terms (except after census)

## LOWER HOUSE



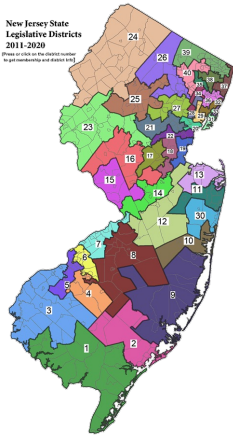
- General Assembly
- 80 Assembly Members
- Two-year terms



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## LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS


- New Jersey is divided into 40 legislative districts. Each district contains approximately 220,000 people. Legislative districts ensure equal representation from the members of the Legislature.
- The legislative map is redrawn every ten years after the United States Census, which counts every person living in the country.
- The residents of each are represented by one Senator and two General Assembly Members, elected in off years from federal elections.



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## • How a bill becomes a law

- 1 Idea developed**  
 A legislator sponsors a bill, often at the suggestion of a constituent, interest group or public official.
- 2 Bill drafted**  
 The Office of Legislative Services, a nonpartisan agency of the Legislature, prepares the bill.
- 3 Bill introduced**  
 During a legislative session, the bill's title is read aloud (first reading). The bill is released to the public.
- 4 Bill referred to committee**  
 The Senate President or Assembly Speaker then usually refers the bill to a committee for review.
- 5 Committee action**  
 When scheduled by the chair, the committee considers the bill at a public meeting. The committee may leave the bill as is, make amendments or prepare a substitute bill.
- 6 Second reading**  
 A bill is considered at second reading when it is reported to the floor and its title is read aloud. Amendments can again be made. If not considered or reported, the bill remains in committee.
- 7 Third reading**  
 When scheduled by the Senate President or Assembly Speaker, the bill is given a third reading and considered on the floor. To make additional amendments, the bill must be returned to second reading.
- 8 House vote**  
 The bill passes when approved by a majority of the members and is sent to the other house. If a final vote is not taken after the third reading, it may be considered at another time or may be returned to a committee.
- 9 Second house**  
 The bill follows the same process in the second house. If amendments are made, the bill is returned to the first house for a vote. A bill receives final approval when it passes both houses in identical form.
- 10 Governor's action**  
 After final passage, the bill is sent to the governor, who may sign it, conditionally veto it (returning it for changes) or veto it absolutely. The governor may veto single line items of appropriation bills. Bills passed in the last 10 days of a two-year session may be "pocket vetoed."
- 11 Law enacted**  
 A bill becomes law upon the governor's signature or after 45 days if no action is taken. Vetoes bills can become law by a two-thirds override vote of the Legislature. A law takes effect on the day specified in its text or, if unspecified, the next July 1.



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## The path of a bill

A bill can start in either house, but it must be passed in both houses in identical form. If a bill passes each house, it is sent to the governor for approval.

The path a bill takes through the Legislature is:

- First Reading
- Committee Hearing
- Second Reading
- Third Reading
- Final Passage and Vote



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## Final passage and vote

Legislators can vote yea (yes), nay (no), or they can abstain, indicating that they have decided to vote neither for nor against the bill. Sometimes they choose to be absent from the chamber for a vote.



A simple majority vote is needed to pass a bill in each house

- 41 in the Assembly
- 21 in the Senate.

If a bill passes in both houses in the same form, it moves to the governor.

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## Governor's actions

- Sign the bill – it's now a law!
- Take no action – a bill automatically becomes a law after 45 days (based on the legislative calendar).
- Conditionally veto – request changes in the language of the bill.
- Absolute veto – refuse to sign the bill.
- Pocket veto – only during the last ten days of a two-year session so that it cannot be further discussed; same impact as a veto



The budget bill also has a line-item veto, where the governor can make changes to the budget or allotted amount of money tied to the bill.

The Legislature can overrule the governor's veto with a 2/3 vote in both houses.

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## To be an effective advocate... Build relationships

*Effective lobbying is about knowing your issue and building relationships.*



Build relationships with non-nurse colleagues



Explain the problem

Build relationships with supervisors



Ask them to help you advocate for change

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**To be an  
effective  
advocate...**


**Build  
relationships  
with  
policymakers**

What do you do when you call  
an office?


- Tell your story effectively
- Follow through and follow up
- Be polite and respectful
- Agree to disagree when  
necessary



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- **We think best in our PJs with our coffee before our weekends start!**
- **We review [gov.net](http://gov.net)**
- **We review our tracking list (We currently tracking about 100 Bills!)**
- **Frequent communication with NJEA Lobbyist Fran Pfeffer**



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Mock Legislative Session:  
"A good bill is one that no one is particularly happy with"

**Topic:**  
**Business Casual verses Scrubs**



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## NJSSNA Legislative Team Future Goals

- Strengthen our Legislative team
- We envision building a coordinated, active legislative team with representation from each county in NJ

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## References

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... (NASN) entered the second year of the pandemic, we knew we still had tremendous **advocacy** ... **school nurses'** federal **legislative** priorities so that our nation's children are **healthy, safe, ...**  
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... on **student health**. In alignment with NASN's Standard 8, the New Jersey ... **School Nurses** Association (NJSSNA) **legislative** committee advocated for the position of a State **School Nurse** ...  
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