

Glossary of Frequently Used Terms

Advocacy:

- Active Support for a Cause
- Recommendation of a Course of action
- Speaking up and speaking out to bring about necessary change on a specific issue.

Advocate: One who pleads on behalf of another.

Bill: A bill is a proposal for a law. A bill amendment is a proposal by a legislator (in committee or floor session of the respective chamber) to alter the language or provision of a bill.

Coalition: a group of people (possibly from different groups/ organizations/ points of view) who come together on behalf of or to oppose a particular issue.

Constituent: a citizen residing within the district of a legislator.

Direct Lobbying: contacting government officials or employees **directly** to **influence** legislation.

Grassroots Lobbying: is appealing to the general public to contact the legislature about an issue. It involves **activating people at a local level** and mobilizing allies through efforts to increase community understanding and support.

Legislative Agenda: a summary of **issues** concerning a particular group/ organization that will be **promoted** during a legislative session.

Legislative Committees: **units** of organization within a legislative chamber that allow groups of legislators to **review policy matters** or bills **more closely** than would be possible by the entire chamber.

Levels of Government:

- Federal government- consists of Representatives/ Senators from all 50 states, a President, and the Supreme Court. The three branches are known as legislative, executive, and judicial respectively.

- State Government- consists of elected legislators, a Governor, & a state supreme court.
- Local Government- consists of a city council, mayor, local boards of education and county officials. Most have professional, unelected managers.

Lobbying: the process of trying to influence policymakers in favor of a specific cause.

Nonpartisan: not formally declaring or having a political party affiliation.

Nonpartisan organizations: those that work across political party lines.

Tool Kit: Set of articles or tools for a specified purpose.