

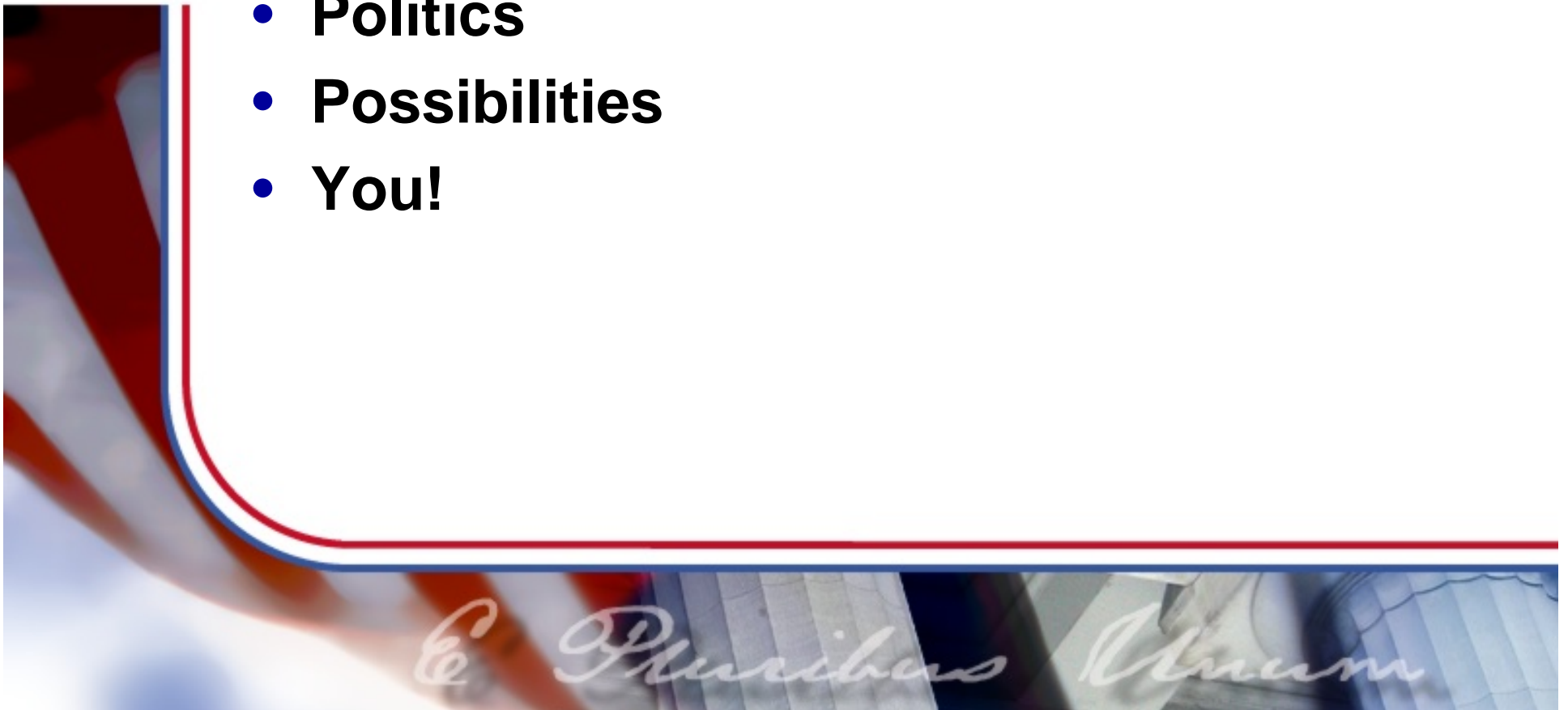
# CAPPS

## Legislature at a Glance and CAPPS Role



# Grassroots Advocacy

- **Process**
- **Players**
- **Politics**
- **Possibilities**
- **You!**



# Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law

- **Big Idea**
- **Bill drafting**
- **Introduction**
- **Committee Process**
- **Floor Votes**
- **Repetition**
- **Governor's Signature**



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# Process

- **Big Idea – CAPPS**
- **Bill drafting**
  - Find the right lawmaker
  - Opposition/Workgroups
  - Build consensus and coalition
- **Introduction**
  - Frame the issue
  - Engage partners at all levels
  - Educate lawmakers



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# Process

- **Committee Process**
  - What is a Committee?
  - Hearings and votes aren't always together
  - Opposition
  - Testimony
  - Advocacy
- **Floor Vote**
  - See above
- **Repetition**



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# Process

- **Governor's Signature**
  - *Celebrate!*

*The Process is Time and People*



# The Players

- **Leadership**
  - Majority/Minority
  - Senate
  - House
- **Structure**
  - Committee Chairs
  - Floor Leaders
  - Influence
- **Key is Relationships**
  - Ours
  - Our Partners'



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# Politics

**When good ideas get stuck...**

- **Gridlock; your bill runs out of time**
- **No Such Thing As A Free Lunch; your bill awaits a trade**
- **Perception Is Reality; when values and platforms clash**
- **Right Sponsor, Wrong Time; when the legislator behind your bill spells trouble**



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# Possibilities

- **Budget Deficit = \$1.8 billion**
- **DOC Budget almost 25% of all state funds**
- **Lawmakers**
  - *Save money first*
  - *Cuts-only budget*
- **Key conservative celebs**
- **Business community**



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# You!

## The Importance of Relationships

- **Grassroots: Building Relationships**
- **Volunteers have a Stronger Impact on their Legislators (All Politics is Local)**
- **Legislators Look to Constituency**
- **Create demand from home**
- **Strength in Numbers Starts with YOU**



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# Communicating with Your Legislators

- **Emails, Letters and Faxes:**
  - ***Home Address.***
  - ***Be brief***
  - ***Personalize***
  - ***Be courteous***
  - ***THANKS***



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# Communicating with Your Legislators

## Personal Visits

- **Make an appointment and confirm**
- **Be on time, but they may not be**
- **Be brief! Most legislators are on a tight time schedule.**
- **Be courteous. Do not be argumentative or confrontational.**
- **Thanks!**



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# Legislative Links

- [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)
- [www.capitol-services.org](http://www.capitol-services.org)
- [www.gongwer.com](http://www.gongwer.com)
- [www.mirsnews.com](http://www.mirsnews.com)
- [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)
- [www.publius.org](http://www.publius.org)



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