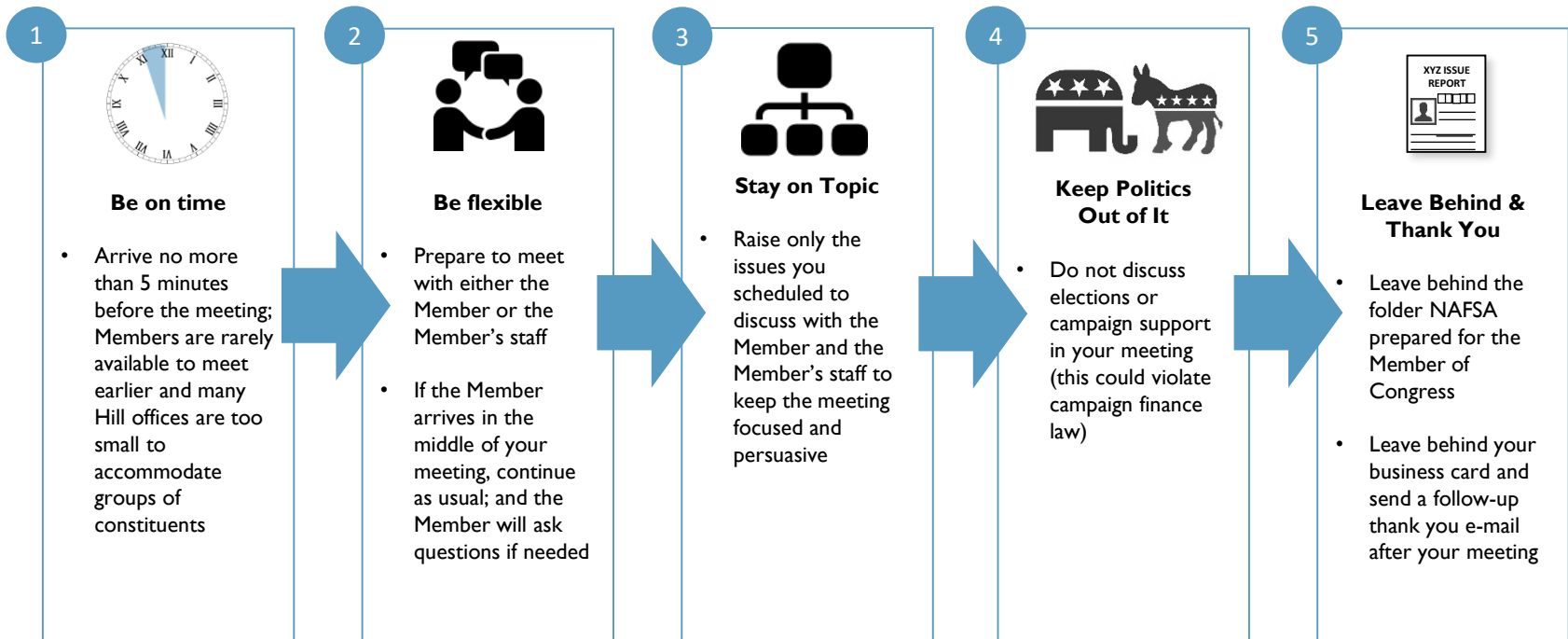


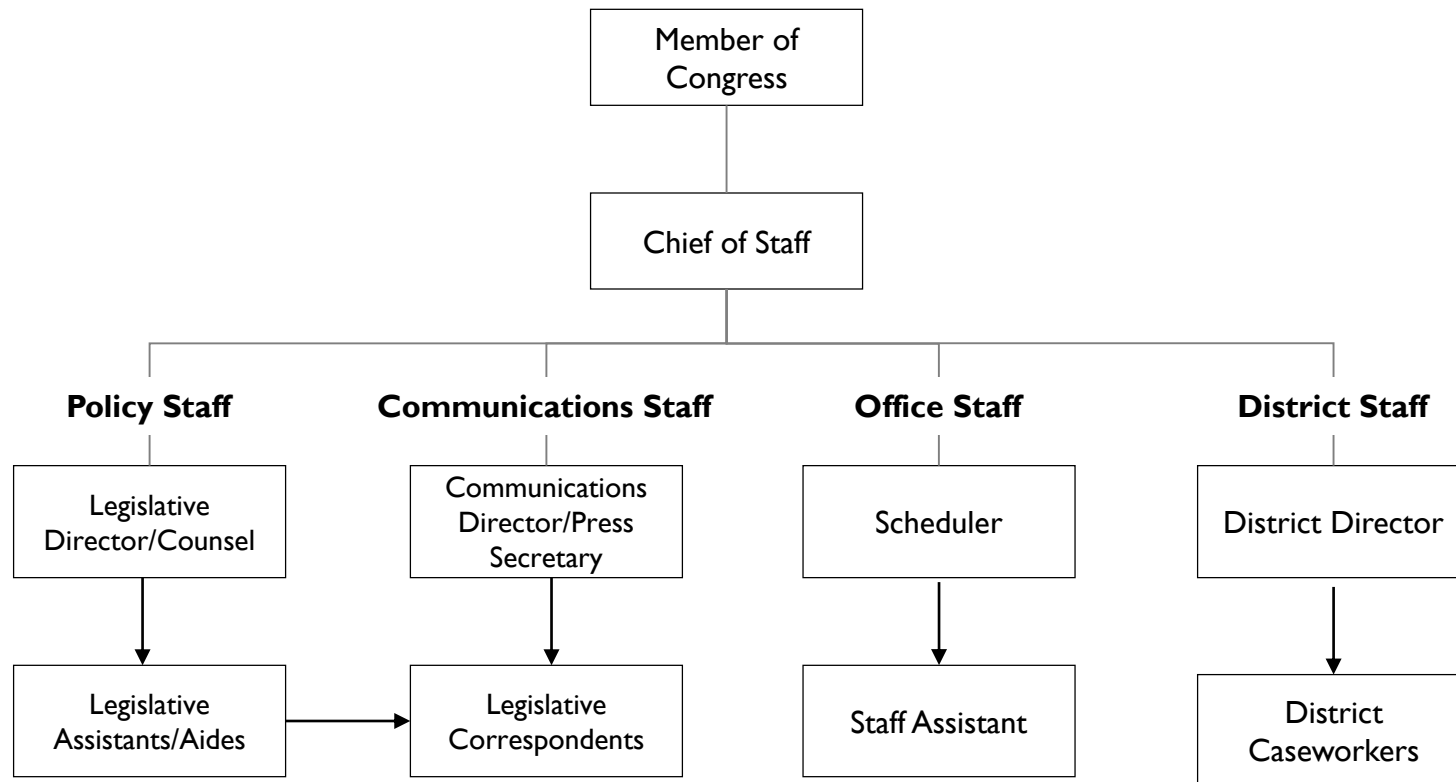
Preparing for Face-to-Face Meetings with Members of Congress

Quick Takes

- Advocates can leverage face-to-face meetings with Members of Congress and their staff to communicate their positions and build enduring relationships with their representatives
- However, meetings are brief and Members are busy; advocates can use the tips below to get the most out of their meetings



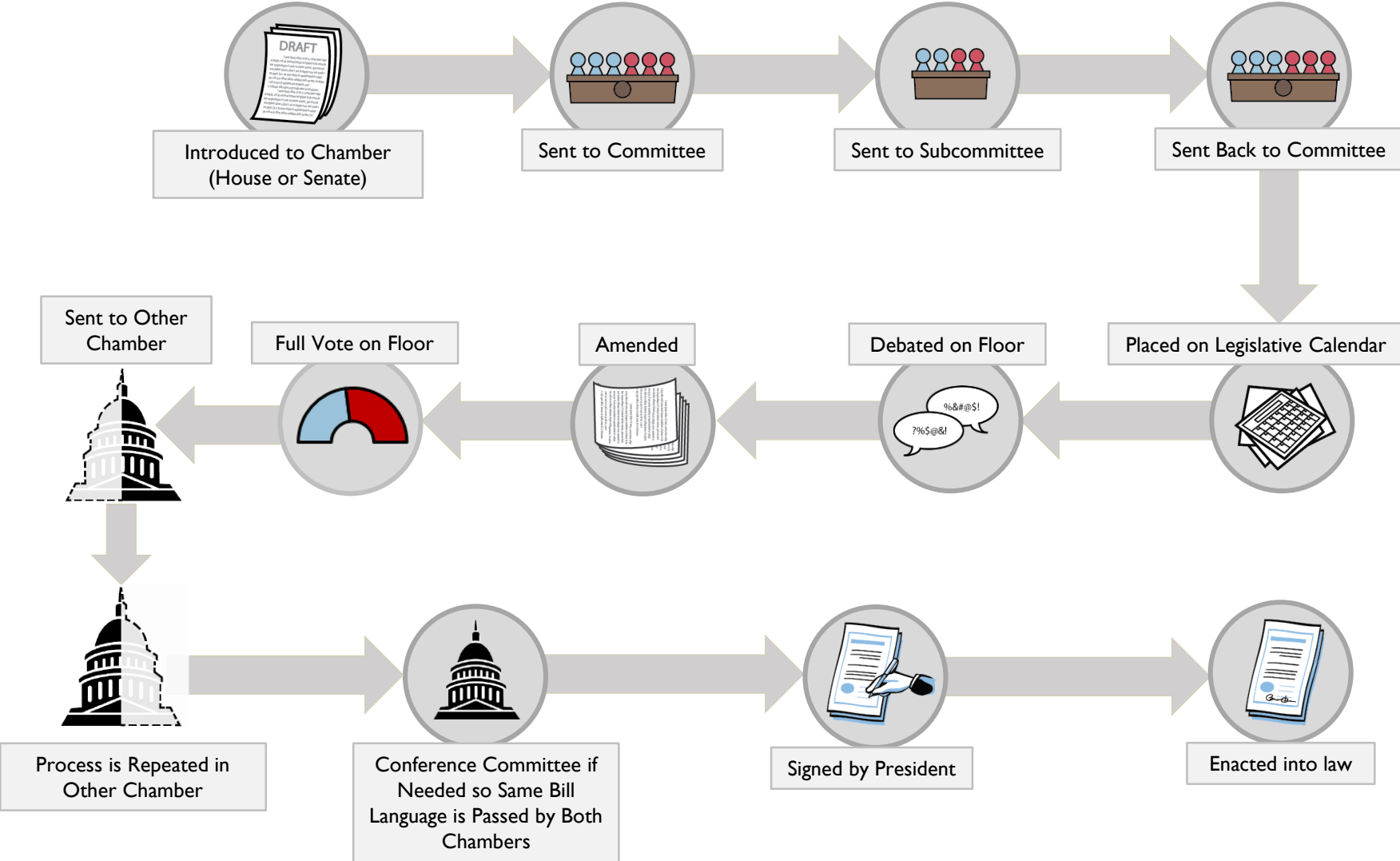
Sample Organization of a Congressional Office



Quick Takes

- Members of Congress are advised to structure their office into discrete areas, depending on their staffers' functions
- Nonetheless, almost every office will have a unique structure and series of staff duties
- The vast Congressional workload means that the day-to-day reporting structure of a Congressional staffer may look very different in practice than on paper

Legislative Process and Obstacles



Look up any bill to find the bill language, cosponsors, and latest legislative activity at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).

Source: National Journal Research

Legislation vs. Regulation

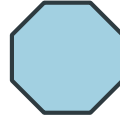
While the process is different, both hold the same force of law



Introduced by...



Altered by...



Can be stopped by...



Finalized when...



Has the effect of...

Legislation

Regulation

<p>Lawmakers Any senator or congressperson can introduce legislation</p>	<p>Congress Committees in either chamber can alter proposed legislation through the amendment process</p>	<p>Stalling/Failing in Congress Legislation may be stopped in its tracks if it stalls in the committee phase, fails a vote or cloture motion, is vetoed, or is not brought up by the other chamber</p>	<p>Signed by President or Congress Overrides Veto The president can sign the bill into law, or Congress can override a presidential veto by two-thirds majorities in both chambers</p>	<p>Law Finalized legislation has the binding force of law</p>
<p>Federal Agencies A federal agency may draft a regulation after reviewing or finding ambiguity in a law and realizing a clarifying regulation is necessary; regulations must be based in laws already passed</p>	<p>The Public The public and interested parties may attempt to change a proposed regulation by submitting comments, which require consideration and response by the agency</p>	<p>Congress/The Public A proposed regulation may be stopped in its tracks by strong, nearly unanimous or very influential public comments, or a resolution of disapproval by Congress (which can be vetoed by the president)</p>	<p>Published A regulation becomes a rule when it is published into the Federal Register after final consideration of comments and adjustments</p>	<p>Law Exactly the same as legislation; a finalized regulation has the binding force of law</p>

Quick Takes

Legislation is the focus of Advocacy Day. You can share regulatory issues with NAFSA at nafsa.org/issuenet.

Notes

Notes
