

Interim Activities

*A Little Known Truth: The World does not Stop
Just Because the Legislative Session Ends*

When the legislative session ends, legislators seldom take an extended break. Many return to jobs which they hold in addition to their work as legislators. Others consider themselves full-time legislators and continue to be involved in various interim projects. Either way, all devote considerable time to legislative activities during the interim.

Activities in the district

Whether or not it is an election year, legislators do their best to be involved and accessible in their districts. If you live in the district, every effort will be made to respond to your request or inquiry. Individuals, businesses, and organizations in the district usually get quick attention.

Legislative committee work

Interim committees typically meet monthly from June through November to study proposals assigned to them. Be sure to get on the mailing list for interim committee meetings. In addition to meeting at the capitol, committees often meet in locations throughout the state during the interim. Plan to attend those in your area that are relevant to the issue(s) in which you are interested.

Much of the groundwork for the upcoming session is laid in interim committee deliberations. Attending interim meetings also gives you the opportunity to keep up contacts and show your ongoing interest.

Campaigns

Senators are up for election every four years and Representatives every two years. Elections are held in even-numbered years. Campaigns start early and take an inordinate amount of time and energy. Therefore, if you plan to visit with a legislator during the interim of an election year, you may have some difficulty because he/she may be campaigning.

However, if you do need to contact a legislator during this time, make an appointment well in advance. Unless you are attempting to meet or contact legislative leadership, the most effective way to contact legislators during this time is with the home or business contact information contained in the legislative directory or the previously mentioned web sites.

REMEMBER: The primary focus in an election year is the campaign.

Your preparation for the upcoming session

Preparation for the session includes meeting with legislators to discuss your proposals, researching those proposals, and strategizing with the legislators who will be authoring the legislation you support. Initiate these pre-session contacts early in the fall. Mid-September to mid-December is the best time period in which to begin and finalize these pre-session activities.