Welcome & Webinar Process

• Today’s webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on PVA.org
• Closed Captioning is available. Click the CC button in the meeting controls bar at the bottom of your screen to turn it on.
• If you have a question, please type it in the Q&A box. Questions will be answered at the end of the program.
Introductions

• Lisa Elijah – Grassroots Advocacy Manager, Air Force Veteran, PVA member

• Julie Howell – Associate Legislative Director, Army Veteran
What this is & what this is not

• This is NOT a comprehensive civics course
• This is NOT a place to debate politics or personal beliefs
• This is NOT going to turn into a forum for debate

• This IS a small overview of the structures of government
• This IS a refresher course for those that might want it
• This IS a 30,000 foot view of our current system
As a reminder: Last Time

• Fundamentals of Government
• Federal Government
  • The Three Branches
    • Executive, Judiciary, Legislative
  • Bicameral Congress -
    • House of Representatives
    • US Senate
• State and Local Government
Series Overview

• The 5 W’s & an H—
  • Fundamentals of Government
  • The Legislative Process
  • Understanding the Issues & Becoming a Change Agent
  • Who is Advocating & Who With
  • The Art of Advocacy
Origin of a Bill

• Ideas are the seeds to the start of a bill
  • Bills generally are initiated through constituents or hearings/meetings
• Anyone can write a bill, but only members of Congress can introduce legislation
Creation of a Bill

• Once an idea is in place research into the issue starts
• Offices get outside validation
  • Think tanks, Advocacy Groups, CRS
• Bill is drafted
Introduction

• Game plan on introduction:
  • Get Endorsements
  • Get Sponsors
  • Introduce Bill
What is a Committee?

A committee is a group of members appointed to investigate, debate, and report on legislation.
Committees in the House & Senate

**House of Representatives**
- 20 Standing Committees
- 104 subcommittees
- 3 Select Committees
- 4 Joint Committees

**US Senate**
- 16 Standing Committees
- 70 subcommittees
- 5 Select Committees
Committee Membership & Structure

- Members express interest
- Lead by the majority party
- High demand committees
- Leadership
  - Chairman/Chairwoman
  - Ranking members
Subcommittee Logistics

- Listens to the merits of a bill
- Offers an amendment
- Votes to approve the bill
- Votes to reject the bill
Committee Logistics

- Full Committee • Listens to the merits of a bill
- Amend • Offers an amendment
- Accept • Votes to approve the bill
- Reject • Votes to reject the bill
# Consideration & Debate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House of Representatives</th>
<th>US Senate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ready for consideration</td>
<td>Scheduled for debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governed by a “rule”</td>
<td>Unanimous consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor debate</td>
<td>Unlimited debate/Filibuster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yay’s &amp; Nay’s</td>
<td>Cloture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off to the Senate</td>
<td>To the President</td>
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President Signs Into Law
Oversight

• Oversight of the Executive Branch is an important Congressional check
  • House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
  • Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs
• Congressional investigative organization – Government Accountability Office (GAO)
  • 64 Inspector Generals
  • Regularly Audit and Report on attached agencies
Budget

• President’s Budget
  • Runs on Fiscal Year
• Independent Budget (IB)
  • PVA, DAV, VFW
Budget Areas

Two Major Spending Areas:
1. Discretionary Spending
2. Mandatory Spending
Authorizations

• There are 12 appropriation subcommittees that have varying times to reauthorize funding
  • Some budgets are not reauthorized every year
Q&A

We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Again, this was just an overview of certain aspects of the Government.
Webinar Code

• For participants viewing the recording that would like credit for session one, please email the code 2A2LG to Lisa Elijah at lisae@pva.org.

• Join us next time on Thursday, June 22th @ 3pm
  • We will cover: Understanding the Issues and Becoming a Change Agent.