

The background features a dark blue gradient with several circular gauges and arrows. One large gauge on the left has numerical markings from 140 to 260. Other gauges are smaller and scattered across the frame. Arrows indicate various directions of movement, some clockwise and some counter-clockwise, suggesting a process or cycle. The overall aesthetic is technical and analytical.

# WHAT TO DO AS THE BUDGET CRISIS CONTINUES

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# CONNECTICUT'S BUDGET PROCESS

## A BIENNIAL CYCLE

- Odd Number Years = Budget setting year for a 2 year term (the biennium)
  - 2017 Session is the “long session” from January 4<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>
- Even Number Years = Budget adjustments for year 2 of the biennium
  - 2018 Session is the “short session” from February 7<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>
  - These are called “budget adjustments” – and they are made based on updated projections and information

# TODAY, WE WILL COVER

- How the budget process works
- What we need you to do and why
- How to advocate

# Budget Process : Summer /Fall

- Late Summer: Office of Policy and Management (OPM) sends instructions to state agencies
- Mid Fall: Agencies submit budget proposals and expansion options to OPM
- Late fall/early winter: OPM/Governor and staff make decisions in context of projections and fiscal indicators



# GOVERNOR'S BUDGET – WINTER IS COMING!

- Presented to the Legislature on February 8, 2017
- Deficit for FY 2018 is approximately \$1.5 billion (\$1,500,000,000)!
- Must be a balanced budget

# SPRING - CRUCIAL TIME FOR LOBBYING

## APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PROCESS

- The Appropriations Committee hears from state agencies by day, and the public at night for the two weeks following the Governor's Budget Address. (Speculate the hearings will begin 2/13 and will run through 2/24.

### THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO RESPOND TO THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET -

CT Library Association will be organizing testimony to be delivered at the hearing, and submitted electronically.

Come to the hearing EVEN IF you don't testify yourself. Show your support for Libraries by being there.

CALL your local legislators (even if they are NOT on the Appropriations Committee) and advocate for libraries.

ORGANIZE local meetings with your legislators at your libraries with a small group of patrons/supporters to discuss funding impact locally.

# “ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL”

- Legislators just got elected/re-elected. They are paying close attention to local voices
- Most effective lobbying is close to home. Libraries provide core services to their communities, help to solve local issues
- Connect local residents to state wide services/resources outside of the immediate district:
  - maintaining access to job search databases
  - CCAR allows patrons to access materials that local libraries cannot afford.

# APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS, CONTINUED

- The Elementary/Secondary Education Subcommittee of Appropriations will hold follow up work sessions with the CT State Library to get more details on the impact of the Governor's proposal on existing services
- The Subcommittee Chairs will make recommendations to the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee
- The Committee will vote on the Appropriations version of the budget several days prior to the Committee Deadline (to avoid a filibuster
  - Historically, these have been partisan votes



# LATE SPRING

- The Appropriations Budget/Finance Committee Tax Package are now the counter-proposal of the legislature to the Governor's Budget Proposal
- The Appropriations and Finance Committee Chairs, (historically) with support from Democrat leadership, Office of Policy and Management and the Governor's Staff negotiate a final budget
- Negotiated budget must pass both chambers.
  - House requires at least 76 votes
  - Senate requires at least 19 votes

# GET TO KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

## FRESHMAN Legislators:

- won't be sworn into office until January 4, 2017
- Committee assignments will come out in late December
- Read up and learn their priorities
- Leadership will want to “protect” these new seats in the next election

## INCUMBENT Legislators:

Look them up on [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

- read their biographies. This tells you their priorities.
- did they serve on committees that govern your priorities last session?
- have you already reached out to them about your cares and concerns?
- have they (or their aides) responded?

# MAKE A CONNECTION

## INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND THEN...

### OPEN UP/SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE IN COMMON

- CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION/REELECTION.
- YOU ARE A CONSTITUENT, YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN COMMON, WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL, WORK AT THE LIBRARY IN THEIR DISTRICT.

### SHARE YOUR CONCERNS

- I'M ASKING YOU TO HELP PRESERVE FUNDS THAT SUPPORT OUR LIBRARY, FOUND UNDER THE STATE LIBRARY IN THE BUDGET....

# TELL YOUR STORY

## FACTS TO SUPPORT YOU

Why Does it Matter? How are things better? How will they suffer without funding? Why should anyone is state government pay attention to this? Use some facts/create a fact sheet:

- 20.7 million people visited a library in CT last year, and more than 28 million items were borrowed.
- in a challenging economy, reliance on services and demand for access to resources at libraries increases.
- Libraries provide important resources to every one in your district, regardless of age, ability or income.

## PERSONALIZE IT

Why does it matter to you – do you use the library? Have you seen people helped by services at the library? Have relationships formed at the library created a stronger, more connected community?

## MAKE A CLOSING “BID”

- Please make it a priority to Preserve the Library Funding at Current Levels.

## ASK FOR A “COMMITMENT”

- Will you please talk to the Chairs and Leadership in support of preserving the RAP program?



# HOW TO REACH LEGISLATORS?

SENATE DEMOCRATS: 1-800-842-1420

SENATE REPUBLICANS: 1-800-842-1421

HOUSE DEMOCRATS: 1-800-840-8267

HOUSE REPUBLICANS: 1-800-842-8270

# OTHER METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

## Organizations

- Fact Sheet
- Coalition Action/Sign on letter
- Action alert (e-alert)
- Press Conference
- Advertisement
- Website

## Individuals/Organizations

- Fact Sheet
- In person meeting
- Phone call
- Email
- Social Media (FB, Twitter, Instagram)
- Letter to the Editor, clipped and sent with note to your legislators
- Newspaper article, sent with a personal note to legislators
- US Mail (when's the last time you got a REAL letter from A REAL person?)

# LOBBYING TODAY AND EVERY DAY

You are the Expert! Remember to:

- Introduce yourself – every time
- Have a fact sheet/know your opposition's argument
- Explain why you care
- Ask if they have questions
- Be honest (and get back to them if you need to)
- As kind to staff as you are kind to an elected official
- ALWAYS say thank you, and write a follow up note

Please don't:

- Speak negatively about opposing view points, other than to provide counter points
- Assume you know their position
- Threaten to pull your vote/withhold your support from an elected official
- Forget to write a follow up thank-you note

# GET READY - GO

- Make a plan to meet your legislators IN THE DISTRICT – This can start happening NOW
- Communicate with each other and your librarian about what matters most related to your state funding
- Do your research – find out about your elected officials, their priorities – and craft your message in a way that will get and keep their attention.
- Organize, plan and practice – role play with each other before you have your meeting.
- Provide us with feedback. How did it go? What did the legislators say? Do they need follow up information?