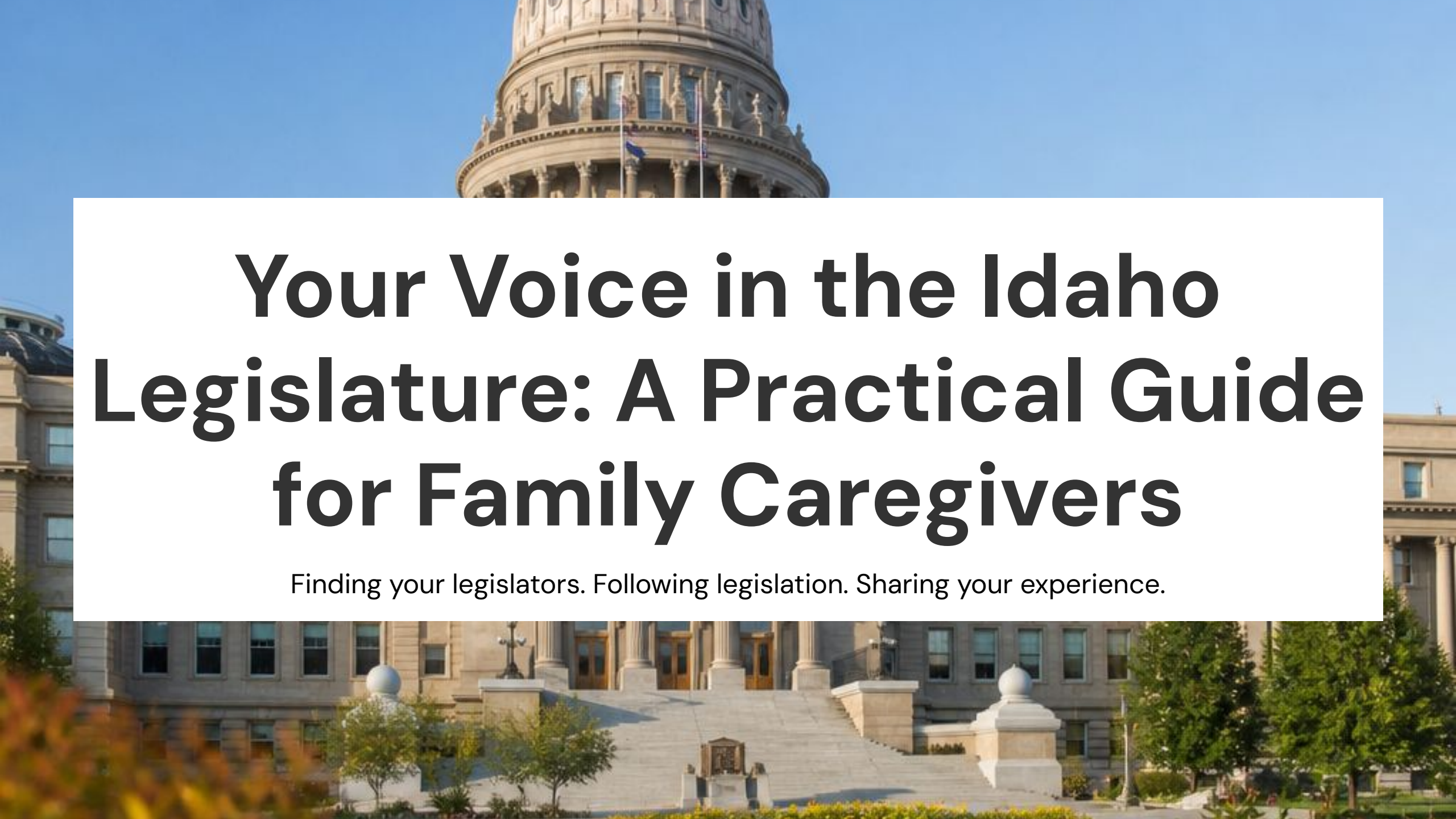


Your Voice in the Idaho Legislature: A Practical Guide for Family Caregivers

Finding your legislators. Following legislation. Sharing your experience.

Three Things to Leave Knowing

Mastering the basics of civic engagement



Who represents me?

Identify your federal, state, and local representatives.



What's happening with the issue I care about?

Track current legislation and policy developments.



How do I communicate with my legislators?

Utilize effective channels for advocacy and direct outreach.

If you can answer these three questions, you have the basic tools you need to participate.

You Don't Have to Be a Policy Expert

Core Principles of Citizen Advocacy



- **Democratize Your Participation**

  You do not need to be a professional advocate or master complex legal frameworks to make an impact.

- **No Connections Required**

  Your voice carries weight simply by being a constituent in your district.

- **Personal Experience is Power**

  Your lived experience is the most authentic data point for your elected officials.

Quick Check: Can you name your state senator and two state representatives?

Who Represents You?

Understanding Idaho's Legislative Representation



- **Legislative Districts**

  Every Idaho resident is assigned to a specific legislative district based on their home address.

- **Representation Structure**

  Each district elects three officials: one State Senator and two State Representatives.

- **Find Your District**

  Your residency determines your specific district and your elected officials.

Use the official Idaho Legislature 'Who's My Legislator?' lookup tool to find your representatives.

Let's Do It Together

Live Demonstration: Finding Your Representatives



- ### Navigate to the Idaho Legislature Website

  Start by opening the official state legislative portal in your browser.

- ### Access 'Who's My Legislator?'

  Enter your home address into the search tool to pinpoint your specific legislative district.

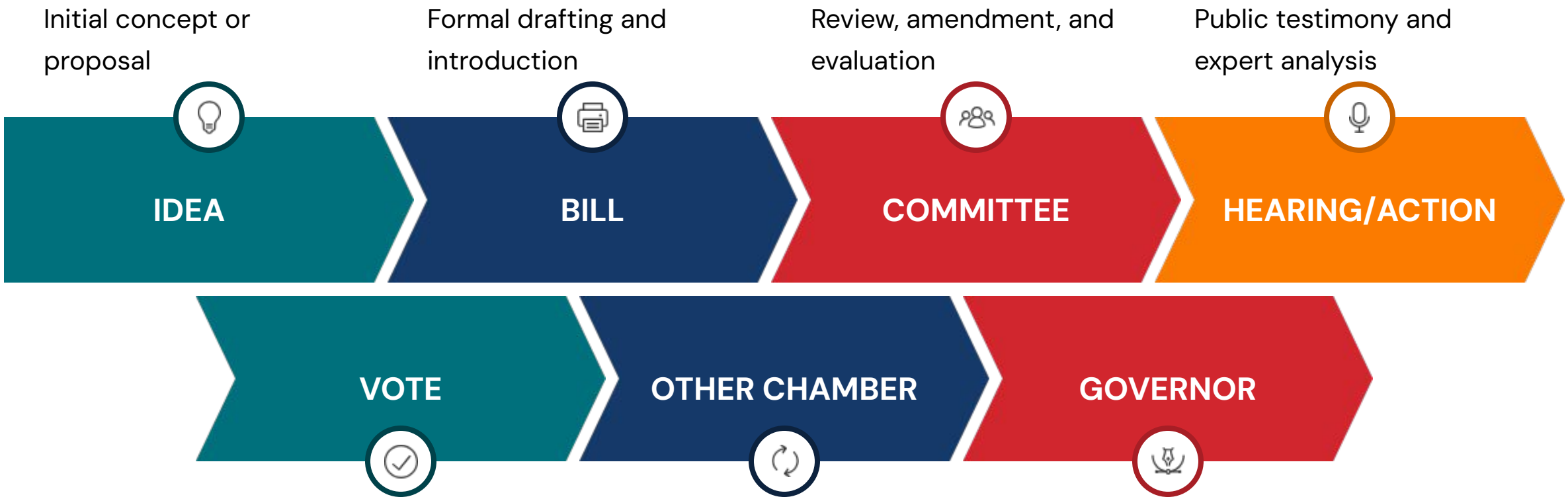
- ### Identify Your Officials

  Locate and note the names of your current Senator and Representatives.

Call to Action: Take out your phone and find your legislators now.

You Don't Need to Memorize This

Simplified Process Flow



Focus Question: 'Where is this bill right now?'

Let's Find a Bill

Live Demonstration Overview



Searching for a Bill

Utilizing the search interface to locate legislation by number or keyword.



Navigating the Bill Page

Exploring key metadata including the bill number, official title, current status, and legislative history.



Reading the Bill Text

Accessing the full text for detailed analysis and review.



Identifying Committees & Hearings

Locating relevant committee assignments and tracking upcoming hearings for informed advocacy.

The Most Important Question

Strategic Decision Framework



- **Where is the bill?**

  Identify the current location: Committee, Hearing, Floor Vote, Other Chamber, or Office of the Governor.

- **What happens next?**

  Determine the upcoming procedural hurdle or requirement needed to advance the bill.

- **Who is involved?**

  Map the key decision-makers, sponsors, or committee members who influence the next step.

Understanding the specific stage of a bill is the essential prerequisite for determining the most effective engagement strategy.

What Does Engagement Actually Look Like?



Email

Provides a clear, enduring written record for traceability and reference.



Phone

Enables rapid communication, immediate clarification, and quick positioning.



Conversation

Facilitates deeper connection through meetings, town halls, or public hearings.



Letter

Write a hand-written letter, which is an uncomment way to reach a legislator and may get their attention.

Being respectful and clear is consistently more effective than sounding like an expert.

Communication Strategy

Effective Advocacy: The 4-Part Framework

To ensure your message is heard and understood, keep your communication concise and focused by following this framework:

WHO: Establish your credibility immediately. 'I live in [City] and I am your constituent.'
WHAT: State exactly what you are calling about. 'I am contacting you regarding [Bill Number].'
WHY: Share your personal story to provide context. 'I provide care for a family member, and this proposal would affect...'
ASK: End with a direct call to action. 'I hope you will [support/oppose] this measure.'



Keep it simple: focus on one issue, one story, and one clear ask.

Short Can Be Powerful: Advocacy Best Practices

Mastering the anatomy of an effective message to your representatives

- ## Keep it Concise

  Clarity is your strongest tool; aim for 100–200 words to ensure your message is read and understood.

- ## Clear Salutation

  Start professionally: 'Dear Representative [Name],'

- ## Purposeful Introduction

  State your name, location, and the specific bill number you are addressing.

- ## Personal Connection

  Explain how the issue directly impacts you or your family to build emotional resonance.

- ## Direct Call to Action

  Clearly state your position: 'Please support/oppose this bill.'

You Decide How Much to Share

Levels of Disclosure



- **IMPACT ONLY**

  'This would make it harder to provide care at home.'

- **SOME CONTEXT**

  'I provide 30 hours of care per week.'

- **PERSONAL STORY**

  Share your detailed, personal experience.

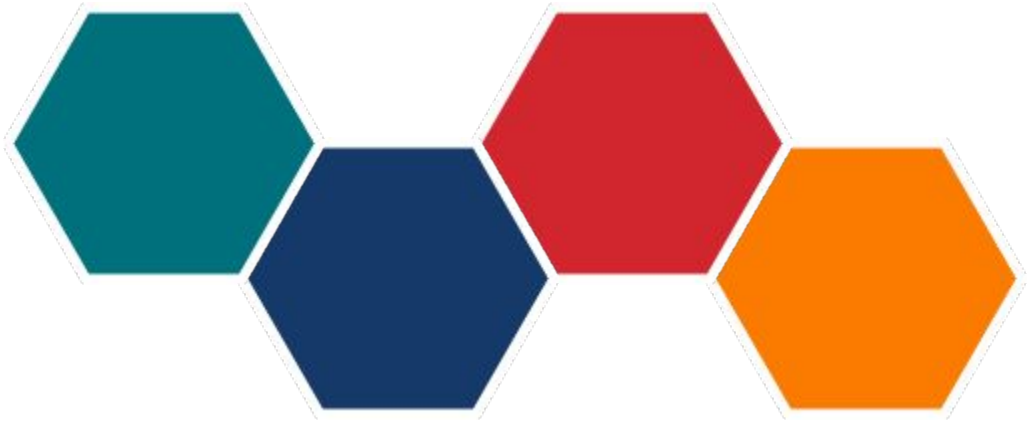
YOU OWN YOUR STORY. Share only what you are comfortable with.

Connecting Story to Policy: The EIPA Formula

Transforming personal experiences into persuasive, actionable advocacy

Experience
Share a specific, personal, or observed situation to anchor the conversation.

Policy
Connect the narrative to the specific regulation, policy, or systemic change.



Impact
Explain how the issue directly affects real lives or actual outcomes.

Ask
State clearly and concisely what action you need the audience to take.

Example: 'I provide transport (Experience). Missing transport means missing care (Impact). This change affects these services (Policy). Please consider this impact (Ask).'

Where Can I Find Reliable Information?

Identifying trusted resources for Idaho legislative research



- **Official Sources**

  The Idaho Legislature website provides authoritative access to bills, agendas, and voting records.

- **News and Analysis**

  Utilize outlets like Idaho Capital Sun, Idaho Reports, and Boise State Public Radio for reporting and context.

- **Additional Resources**

  Relevant state agencies and nonpartisan advocacy groups offer specialized knowledge and data.

Rule: Use news for context; use official records for facts.

You Can Do This

Effective Advocacy Guide



Who represents me?

Identify your local, state, or federal representatives.



What's happening with the issue?

Research the current status and recent developments.



What do I want them to do?

Define a clear, actionable request or 'ask.'



Final Encouragement

Be a constituent, be clear, be respectful, and share your voice.

15 Minutes for Questions & Discussion