



LOBBYING & ADVOCATING FOR YOUR YSB

THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF CYSA'S INTERESTS.

JAY ARONSON
CONSENSUS GOVERNMENT
CONSULTING



ABOUT ME

1988 - Began my political career as the Assistant Clerk of the CT General Assembly's Government Administration & Elections Committee and held senior level caucus positions in the House Republican Office until 1995.

1995 - Began Lobbying as a member of the Murtha Cullina Richter & Pinney Government Affairs Group.

1999 - Joined CT Hospital Association as Assistant VP of Government Relations

2002 - Joined Connsensus Government Consulting. Enjoyed major lobbying successes over the past 20 years including securing significant state funding for YSBs

Key Practice Areas: Children's/youths issues, children's health issues, environmental health issues, recycling and conservation issues, senior issues including health care, Medicaid funding and Assisted Living, youth summer camps, and entertainment and artist promoter issues.



WHAT IS LOBBYING?

Lobbying is defined as the process of advocating for and influencing public and government policy. The practice of which is considered so essential to the proper function of all levels of government that it is specifically protected by the first amendment of the United States Constitution.

WHAT I DO FOR CYSA & YOUR YSB

For over 20 years as your lobbyist, I have and continue to, work with the CYSA Board, its Advocacy Committee, and the Executive Director to promote key issues and initiatives affecting YSBs before the Connecticut Legislature and State Agencies of cognizance.

CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE



House of Representatives

151 Members representing
approx. 23,000 people in each district:
Serve 2 year terms.

2021-22: 97 Democrats & 54 Republicans

Senate

36 Members representing
approx. 100,000 people each district
Serve 2 year terms.

2021-22: 23 Democrats & 13 Republicans

2022 Election & Timeline

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Governor and 187 seats in the House of Reps. and state Senate are up for (re)election.

DECEMBER 2022

Leadership, Committee Chairs and Committee Membership decided.

JANUARY 4, 2023

Opening day of the 2023 Legislative Session. Members of the General Assembly sworn in.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION DATES

The Connecticut General Assembly is a “Part time Legislature” which means most members have other jobs.

In odd number years, i.e. 2023, the Legislature meets from January to June (“Long Session”)

In even number years, i.e. 2024, the Legislature meets from February to May (“Short Session”)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

CONCEPTS

Introduced to the Committee of cognizance and crafted into bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bills are raised for public hearing. Oral and written testimony is accepted.

COMMITTEE VOTE

After a public hearing, bills are eligible for a committee vote. Bills acted on favorably are sent to the House or Senate.

SENATE/HOUSE VOTES

Once approved by both chambers for final action, the bill is sent to the Governor for his signature.



BUDGETARY PROCESS

The Governor gives his budget address in early February. Once his budget is presented, I work to promote the interests of YSBs before the members of the Appropriations Committee. This Committee breaks down the Governor's budget, proposes important changes and negotiates the final budget with Leadership. A final budget is then voted on by each Chamber prior to end of session.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You have a voice, Legislators need to hear from you!



Get to know your legislators. Invite them to visit your YSB. Help them understand what you do.



Support your Chapter's Legislative Breakfast. Invite, Attend, Engage



Offer testimony on issues impacting you, this can be in support or in opposition.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

In the end, while I may be the face of YSBs and CYSA at the state Capitol, your one-on-one relationship with YOUR Legislators is equally important, if not more so!

YOU make a difference!

JAY ARONSON

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Government Consulting Company