

# Ohio Statehouse Day

Thursday, May 15, 2025



**Insights from current and former  
foster youth to improve  
outcomes.**



# Federal vs. State vs. Local Legislation

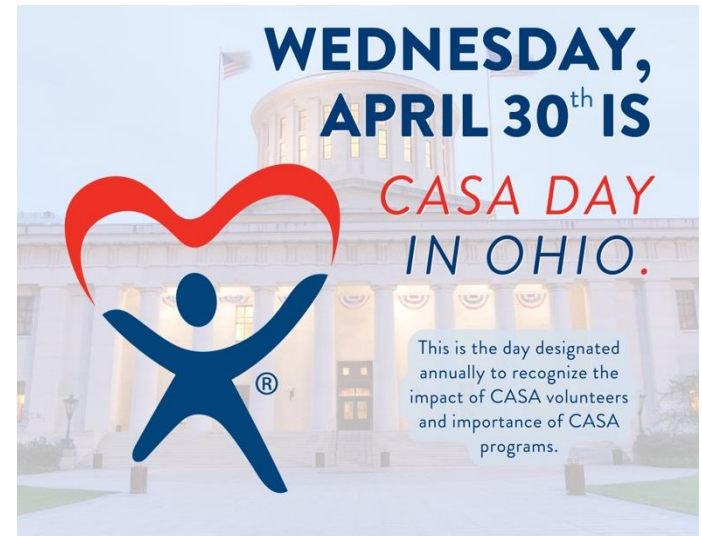
- **Federal laws** are rules that apply throughout the United States. These laws apply in every state, such as
- **Each state** has its own system of laws and courts that handle state matters, including welfare, public assistance and Medicaid.
- **Local laws:** Counties, cities, and municipalities within a state often have their own system of laws and courts that handle rent laws, zoning and local safety.

# **2025 Statehouse Day for Current and Former Foster Youth**

1. What a Statehouse Day looks like.
2. How the three issues were chosen.
3. Intent after Statehouse Day: Ongoing relationship between legislators and county YABs.
4. Legislative visits have an established formula.
5. Why timing, photos and taking notes matters.
6. How a bill becomes a law.
7. Tree Swing diagram and Circle diagram.
8. Logistics on Statehouse Day.

# What a Statehouse Day looks like:

- Participants come together to advocate for up to 3 issues.
- Throughout the day, they share a consistent message.



# How the Three Issues Were Chosen

- [Foster to College Scholarship](#) is on the verge of being included in the state budget and/or in state law.
- [Youth Who Run Away to Escape Abuse](#): OHIO YAB members previously authored LSC language to better protect youth in these situations.
- [Sibling Connections Matter](#): the OHIO YAB has been working on this for years, with multiple written/video testimonials.



# Intent After Statehouse Day

- County YABs will stay in touch with their representatives.
- They will build those relationships and continue to work on many issues.



# **Roles During Legislative Visits**

**1. Introductions**

**2. The Problem**

**3. Personal Story:** *(Related to that issue)*

**4. The Ask:** *(One pager)*

**5. Appreciation and Request to Take a Photo**



Focusing on the  
Scope of Each  
Legislator

- [Franklin County](#)
- [Hamilton County](#)
- [Montgomery County](#)
- [Combined Counties](#)



# Example of sharing more than one issue:

1. **Intro:** Hi, we represent the OHIO YAB, which is the statewide voice of foster youth. We are with the (county) board, which is in your district.
2. **The Problem:** We know you are familiar with the Foster to College Scholarship, and we thank you for being a sponsor. We would like to talk with you about youth who run away to escape abuse, and youth who are separated from their siblings.
3. **Personal Story:** I ran away to escape abuse, and this is what happened.
4. **Personal Story:** I was separated from my siblings, and this is what that was like.
5. **The Ask:** This is what we recommend:  
Share and talk through both one-pagers.
6. **Appreciation and Request to Take a Photo**

# If your meeting is with the legislative aide:

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- “Don’t... Underestimate the staff. The legislative staff is the beating heart of the Statehouse. They know everything, everyone, and probably MORE about the bills than anyone else.”

*~ Quote from the League of Women Voters*



# Three Vital Things:



- **Timing matters:**

You only have 15– 30 minutes.

If you go off topic, they get distracted.

If you go over time, the meeting ends.



- **Taking photos with the legislator and/or aide matters:**

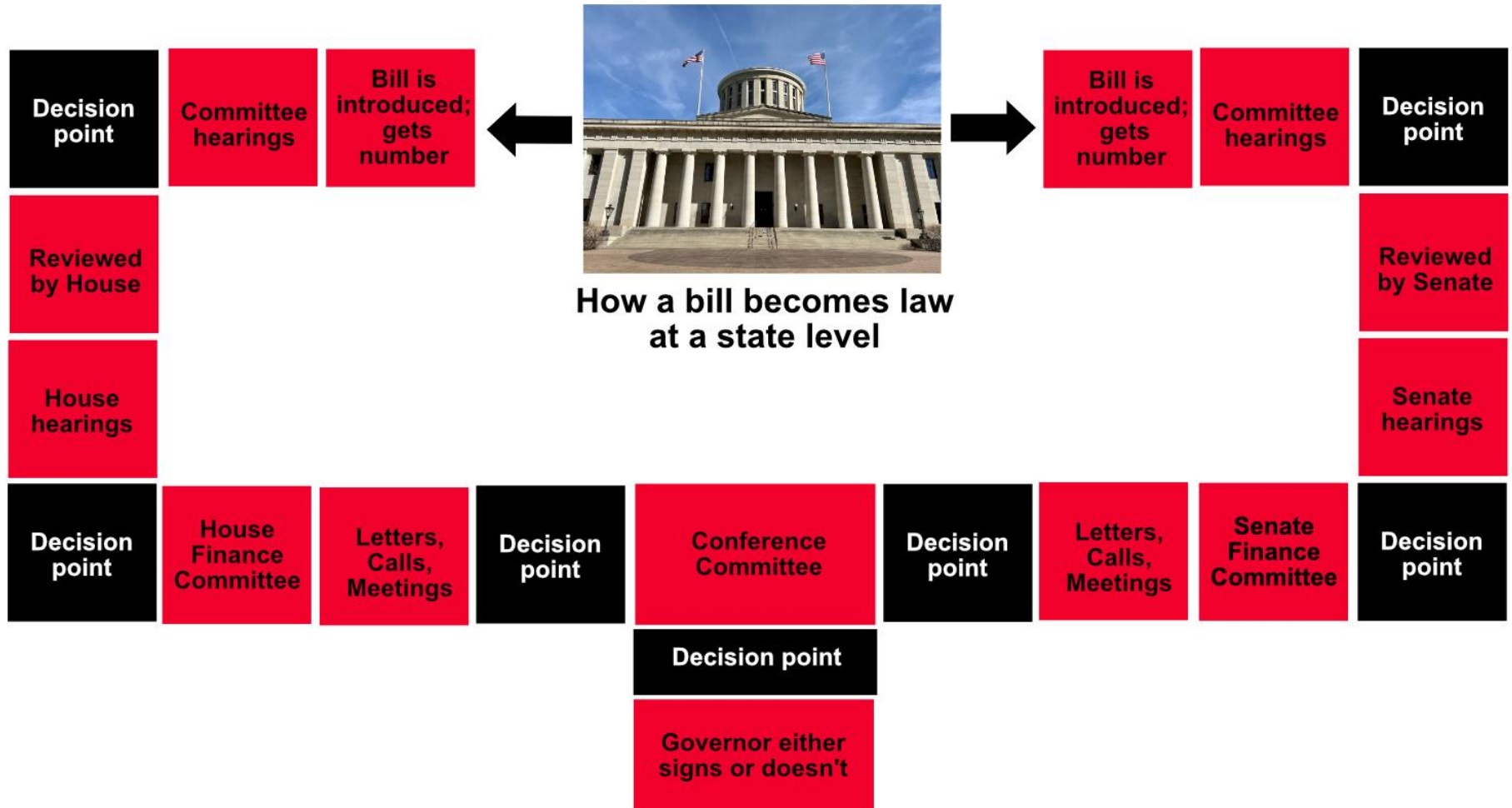
It reminds them of their promises.



- **Taking notes matters:**

So that we can follow up.

# How a Bill Becomes a Law

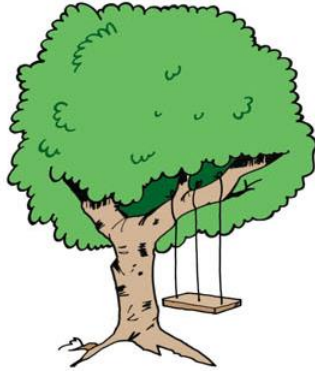




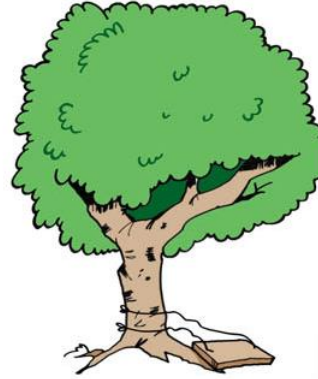
# Tree Swing Diagram



As legislator introduced the bill



As committee reported it



As House amended it



As Senate amended it



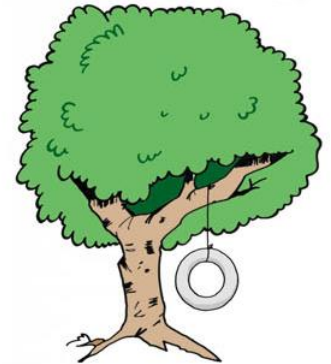
As passed into law



As implemented by state agency



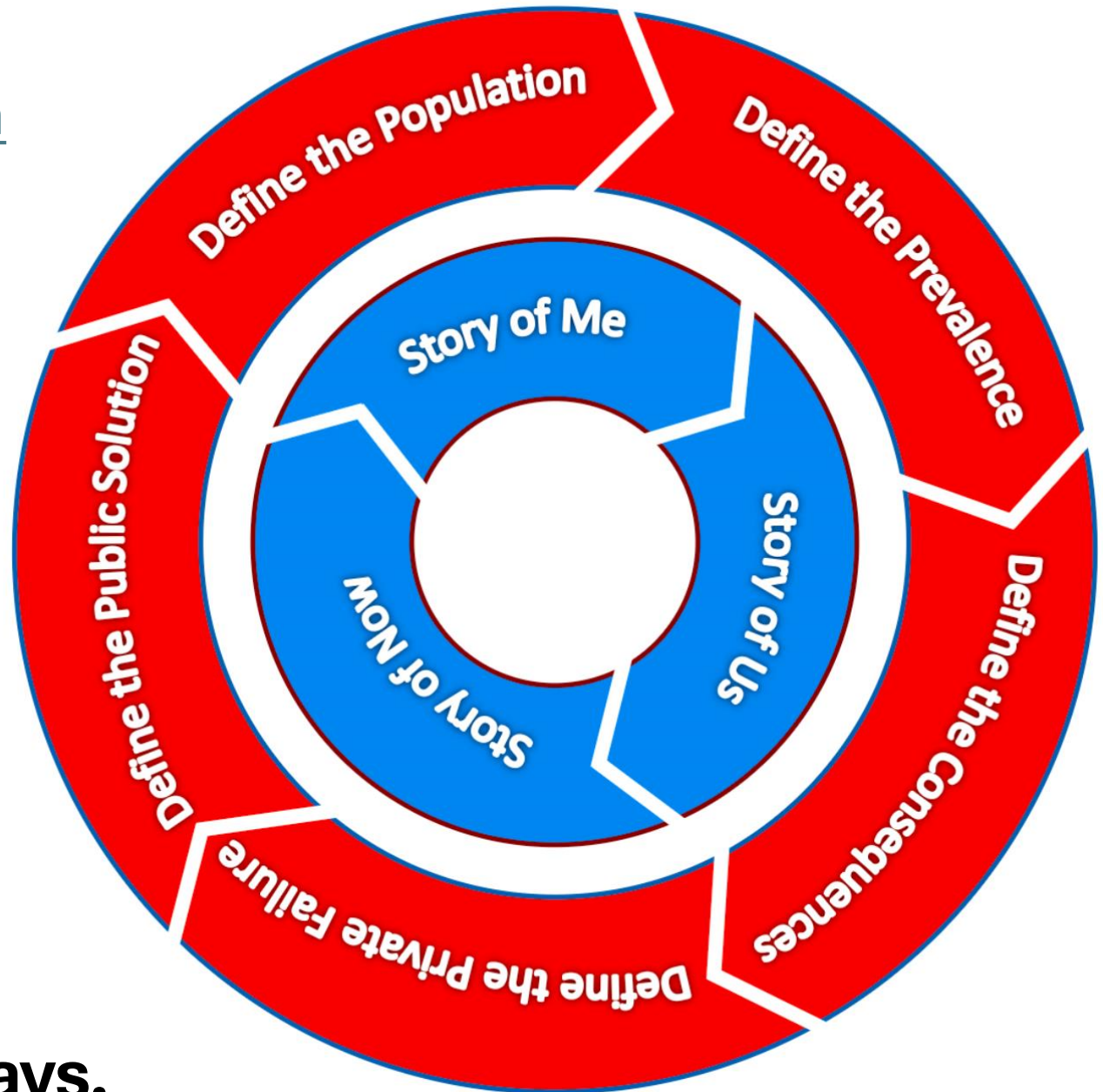
What the budget allowed



What taxpayers really wanted



- Circle Diagram



**Your voice  
matters.  
Now and always.**

# Logistics

- **Attire:** Professional clothing, comfortable shoes
- **Parking:** Prepaid with parameters.
- **Seek to arrive by 9 am:**  
Drop youth off at Trinity for snacks and prep before parking if running late.
- **Snacks and meals** at Trinity Episcopal Church on Capitol Square.
- What is and isn't allowed at the Statehouse.

