



Hope & Stewardship: A Citizen's Guide to Civic Engagement

Moving from kitchen table conversations to meaningful legislative action.

AUTHENTIC GRASSROOTS CONCERN • LOCAL CONTROL • COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Creating Gracious Space

This movement originates from organic concern, not organized politics. It prioritizes connection over division.

What This IS

- ✓ A time to connect with neighbors.
- ✓ An opportunity to find common ground.
- ✓ A space for listening and “Gracious Space”.
- ✓ A moment to reflect on shared values.

What This Is NOT

- ✗ A gripe session.
- ✗ A time to shout from mountaintops.
- ✗ A traditional Q&A or town hall.
- ✗ A partisan endorsement or rally.

“Hope that Wyoming’s future reflects shared values: fairness, common sense, and community care.”

Civic Engagement is Community Service

Government is simply the way a community manages itself. Participating is not just a right; it breathes life into the place we live.

TRUST



Built by neighbors knowing each other's names and showing up.

SERVICE



Lending a hand, sharing an idea, and refusing to stand on the sidelines.

EXAMPLE



Young people seeing adults model constructive citizenship.

Step forward not because you are required, but because you are capable.

Strategy 101: Don't Boil the Ocean

Understanding where bills are in the process enables strategic timing of communications.

The Golden Rule

Pick 3-4 bills maximum. You cannot track everything.

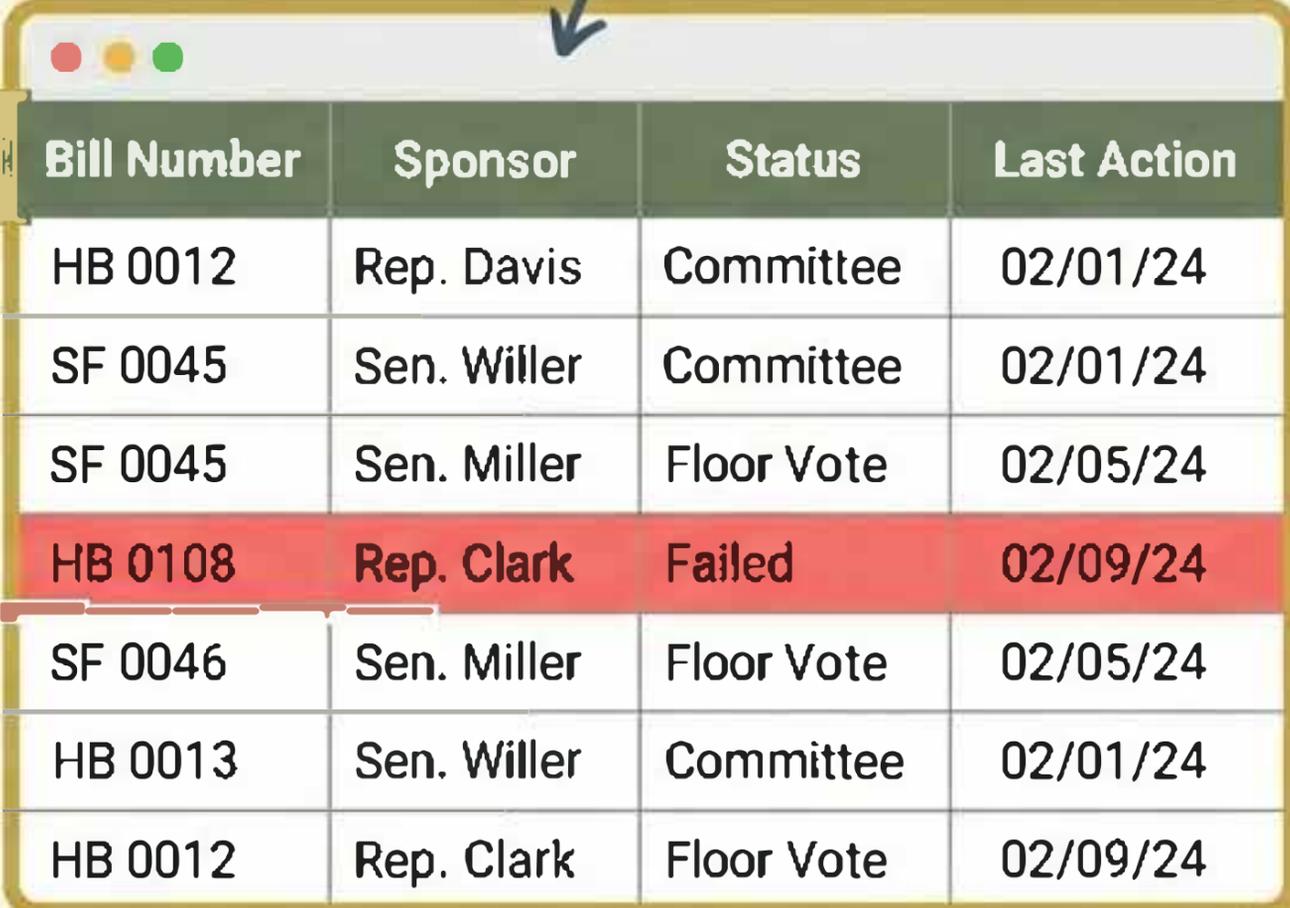
The Reality

Bills emerge until approx. Feb 10-11. Expect a deluge on the final submission day.

Action Item

Identify your 3-4 bills by category (e.g., School Finance, Public Lands) and focus your energy there.

Tool: Civics307.com



| Bill Number | Sponsor | Status | Last Action |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| HB 0012 | Rep. Davis | Committee | 02/01/24 |
| SF 0045 | Sen. Willer | Committee | 02/01/24 |
| SF 0045 | Sen. Miller | Floor Vote | 02/05/24 |
| HB 0108 | Rep. Clark | Failed | 02/09/24 |
| SF 0046 | Sen. Miller | Floor Vote | 02/05/24 |
| HB 0013 | Sen. Willer | Committee | 02/01/24 |
| HB 0012 | Rep. Clark | Floor Vote | 02/09/24 |

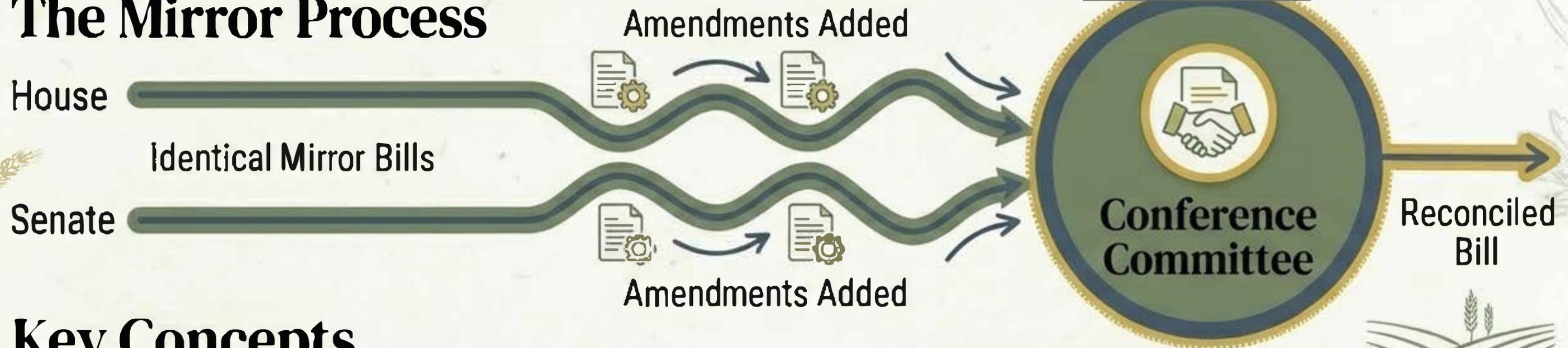
*If it turns red,
the bill is dead.*

The Gauntlet: The Life of a Bill



The Budget Session: Follow the Money

The Mirror Process



Key Concepts

Governor's Power: Line-Item Veto

- The Governor can **SUBTRACT** items but cannot **ADD** them.
- **Legislative Override:** Session reconvenes March 11 specifically to override vetoes. 

The Truth About Federal Funds

- Unused federal funds do not save the state money; they simply go elsewhere.
- **Case Study:** Indian Health Services. \$58M restored by House Appropriations due to constituent blowback.

Tactical Intervention Points

Breaking the "Cheyenne Bubble"



Pre-Session (Before Feb 9)

Action: Contact legislators regarding the Introduction Vote.

Message: Vote Yes/No to introduce.

During Session

Action: Check bill status nightly.

Reality: Legislators represent the whole state. You can contact ANY committee member.

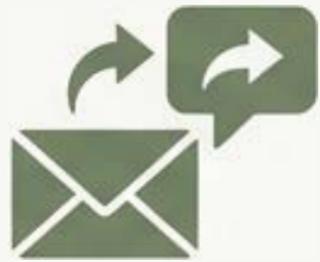
The Third Reading

Action: The final survival vote.

Message: Last chance for targeted communication.

Effective Communication Channels

The Tools



Text & Email -
The most reliable methods.



Voicemail -
Spotty. Many legislators do not check it.



The Roster - Use Civics307 to find committee assignments.

The Strategy

Brevity is Key.

- Legislators track volume and sentiment. Keep it short.
- Always include: **Your Name** and **Your Location**.



Pro Tip: The “Ditto” If you agree with a previous message or testimony, say so. It counts as a voice without wasting time.

The Art of Testimony: A Cheat Sheet

Stories beat statistics. Humanize the policy.

1. **PROTOCOL:** "Mr./Madam Chairman..."
2. **IDENTITY:** "My name is [Name] and I live in [City/County]."
3. **THE HOOK:** "I am a [Parent / Hunter / Teacher]..."
4. **THE POSITION:** "I support/oppose this bill because..."
5. **THE EXIT:** "Thank you for your time."

Access: 24-hour notice posted on wyoleg.gov. Remote testimony via YouTube is encouraged.

Women in Leadership: Policy Over Ideology

41%

of women say a candidate's position on ISSUES is the deciding factor, outweighing party affiliation.

Media Narrative

- Culture Wars, Social Outrage.

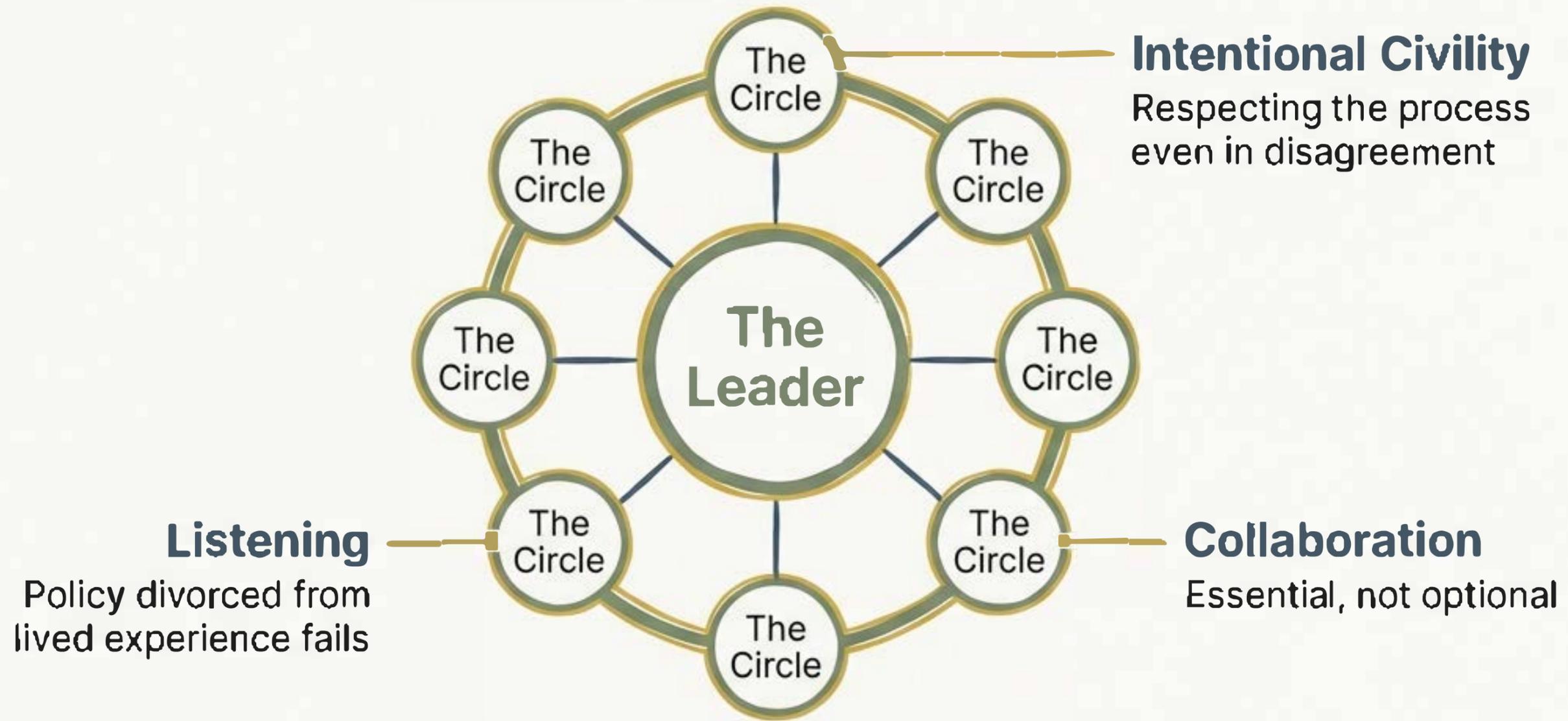
Real Priorities

1. Economic Security
2. Jobs
3. Health Care
4. Education

The Focus: Practical solutions for the “Mommy Penalty,” workplace flexibility, and household finance.

The Circle of Accountability

Leadership is not a solo act.



“Lean into your circle. That is where insight and accountability begin.”

Resources to Run

You don't need permission to step up.

Women's Public Leadership Network

Leadership development & networking.



Ready to Run (Rutgers/UW)

Campaign training specifically for women.



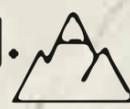
Vote Run Lead

Resources for women's political engagement.



Womentum Wyoming

Mentorship and confidence building.



The Equipoise Fund

Resources for engagement.



The Habit of Liberty

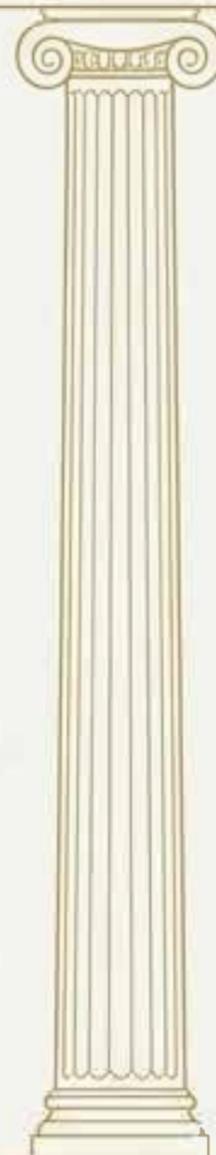
The Struggle for Power vs. The Practice of Virtue

THE CONTEXT

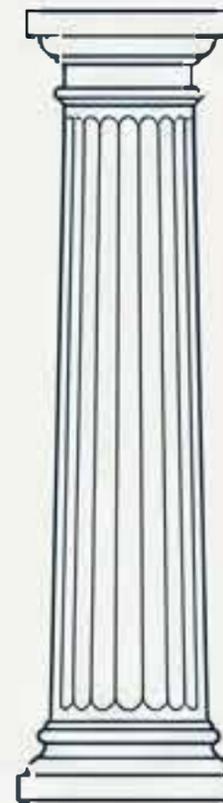
GOOD NEWS: There is nothing new under the sun. We have all the tools to fix this.

BAD NEWS: We must start a new HABIT:
Get Engaged.

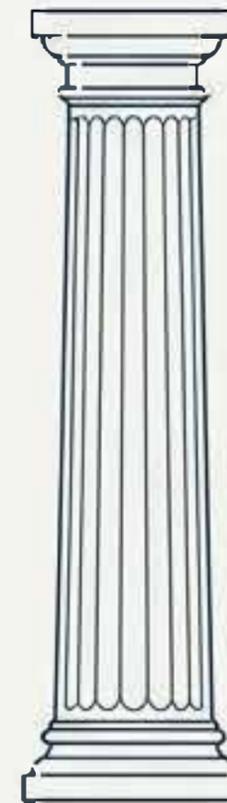
Thomas Jefferson called Roman Historian Tacitus “the first writer in the world... without a single exception.” Tacitus warned that history is the story of man’s struggle for Power. Loss of freedom comes from the gradual erosion of civic virtues.



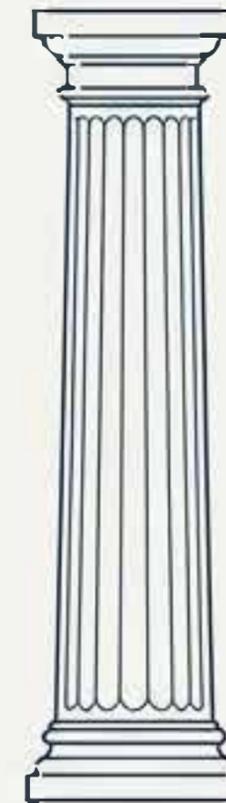
THE 4 CIVIC VIRTUES



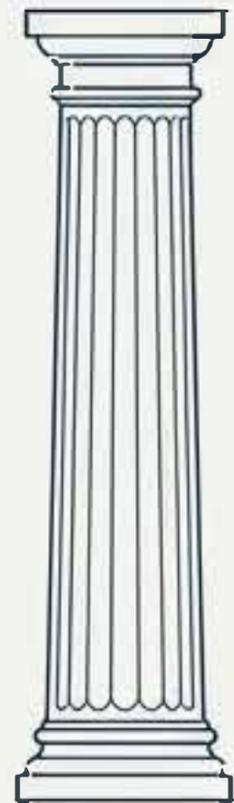
Persuasion



Compromise



**Intolerance
for Corruption**



**Mutual
Trust**

“Democracy demands that little men should not take big ones too seriously; and Democracy dies when it is full of little men who think they are big themselves.” – C.S. Lewis

Your Action Plan

Applying the Habit of Liberty

- 1. Inform Yourself:** Read past the headlines. Go to the source text.
- 2. Listen and Ask Questions:** Engage with your community and representatives.
- 3. Research:** Verify claims using the provided resources.
- 4. Register to Vote:** The prerequisite for power.
- 5. VOTE AUGUST 18:** The deadline for action.



THE CHOICE BEFORE US

When citizens abandon the difficult work of democracy in favor of comfort, compliance, and the security promised by a central authority, they inevitably lose their freedom.

From Tacitus



Do not choose comfort. Choose the work of democracy.

Your Action Plan

IMMEDIATE

- Visit Civics307.com and bookmark the Bill Tracker.
- Identify 3-4 bills that matter to you.

STRATEGIC

- Email legislators **BEFORE** Feb 9th regarding Introduction Votes.
- Check bill status nightly during session.

ADVANCED

- Sign up for remote testimony when your bill hits committee.
- Coordinate with friends across the state to show broad support.

"It's not over till it's over."



A Republic, If You Can Keep It.

Silence is a choice. History waits to see who spoke up, who acted, and who stayed quiet.

CIVICS307.COM