



Greater Boston  
Chamber of Commerce

# 2026 Small Business Policy Guide

# Small Business Policy Update

- **About the Chamber's Policy Team**

- The Chamber's policy focus
- Purpose of this Guide

- **Boston City Council**

- City of Boston Update
- Legislative and Budget Process

- **State Legislature**

- State Legislature Update
- Legislative and Budget Process



# Policy & Impact – The Chamber’s Public Policy Work

- At the Chamber, we create meaningful impact through our public policy expertise and advocacy.
- We consistently apply critical and practical lenses in our analysis, looking at the effects on the economy, opportunity, and equity.
- This, combined with data, real world experience, and input from our members, steers us to positions that will make Greater Boston the best place for all businesses and all people to thrive.
- A large part of the Chamber’s membership are small businesses. Direct feedback from our small business members help shape the Chamber’s policy agenda and advocate for public policy that helps businesses and people thrive.

# Policy Focus Areas

- The Chamber's policy advocacy can be categorized into six different priority areas:
  - Business Climate
  - Climate & Energy
  - Health Care
  - Housing & Development
  - Talent
  - Transportation
- Policy dealing with any of these categories impacts all sectors in the region, and it is critical that the small business community have an informed voice at the table

# Purpose of this Guide

- Provide our small business members with an overview of the high-level basics of policymaking in the City of Boston and at the State House
- This guide is for the benefit of small business members who may not have the time or resources to devote to closely following public policy developments
- Let's hear from you!
  - We cannot do our work without your feedback!
  - Reach out to Matt Arsenault at [policy@bostonchamber.com](mailto:policy@bostonchamber.com)

# Boston City Council



# City of Boston Update

## Where We Are

- **Municipal Elections Were Held Back in November 2025**
  - *Mayor Michelle Wu re-elected for a four-year term*
  - *Councilor Miniard Culpepper elected to fill District Seven vacancy on Boston City Council*
  - *All other City Councilors re-elected for a two-year term*
- **New Two-Year Legislative Cycle**
  - *Councilor Liz Breadon elected as City Council President*
  - *Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata chosen as Vice President*
  - *Committee hearings on draft ordinances, home rule petitions, and other hearing orders will continue throughout the year*
- **FY27 Budget Process Completed in June 2026**
  - *\$4.9B Operating Budget, a 2.1% year over year increase from FY26*
  - *Two supplemental budgets totaling \$70M were approved to cover FY26 cost overruns stemming from snow removal, and increased utility and healthcare costs at Boston Public Schools*



# At-Large Members of the Boston City Council



At-Large Councilor,  
Ruthzee Louijeune



At-Large Councilor  
Julia Mejia



At-Large Councilor  
Henry Santana



At-Large Councilor  
Erin Murphy



# District Councilors



Councilor Gabriela Coletta (D1)



Councilor Ed Flynn (D2)



Councilor John FitzGerald (D3)



Councilor Brian Worrell (D4)



Councilor Enrique Pepén (D5)



Councilor Benjamin Weber (D6)



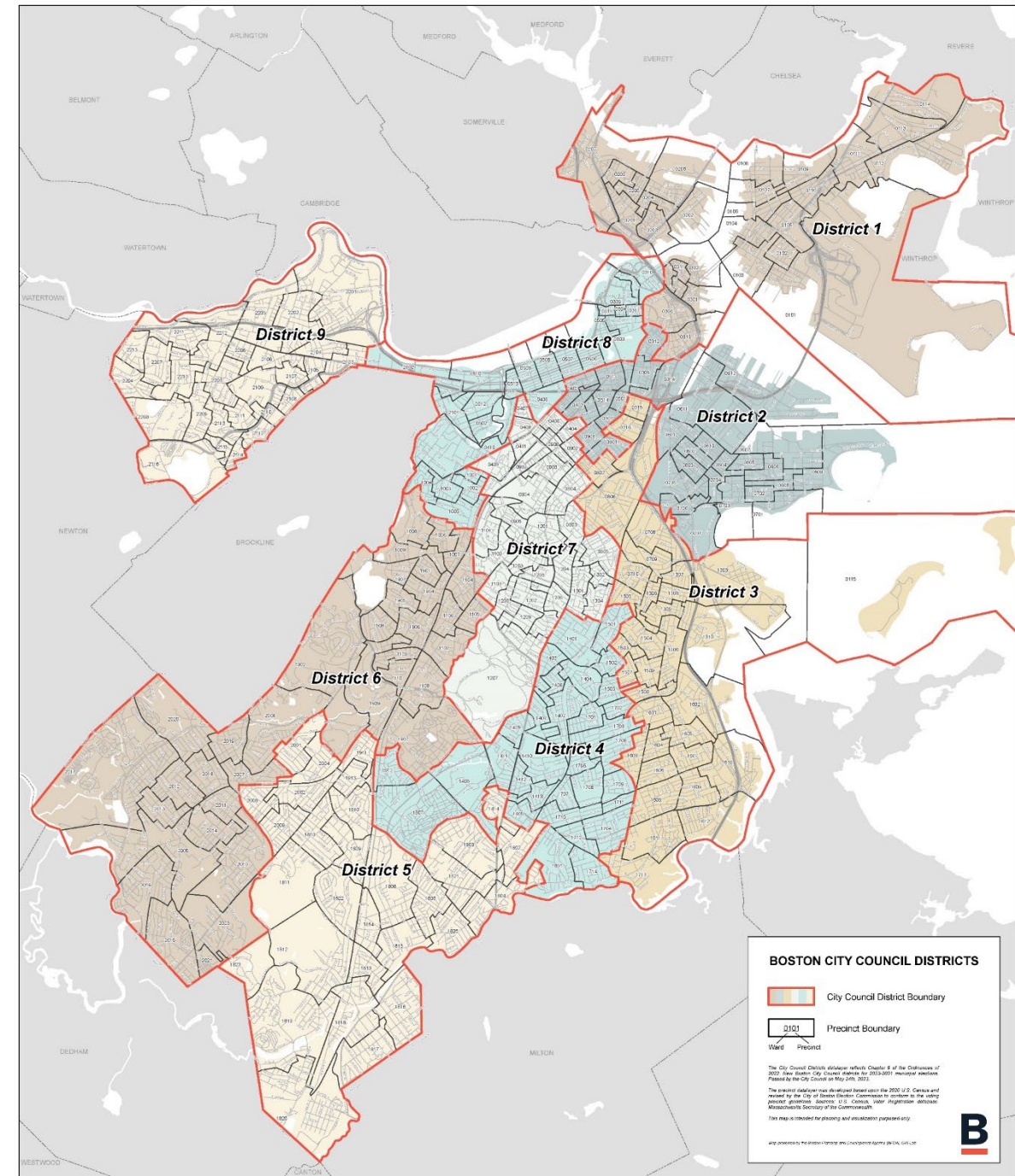
Councilor Miniard Culpepper (D7)



Councilor Sharon Durkan (D8)



Councilor Liz Breadon, Council President (D9)

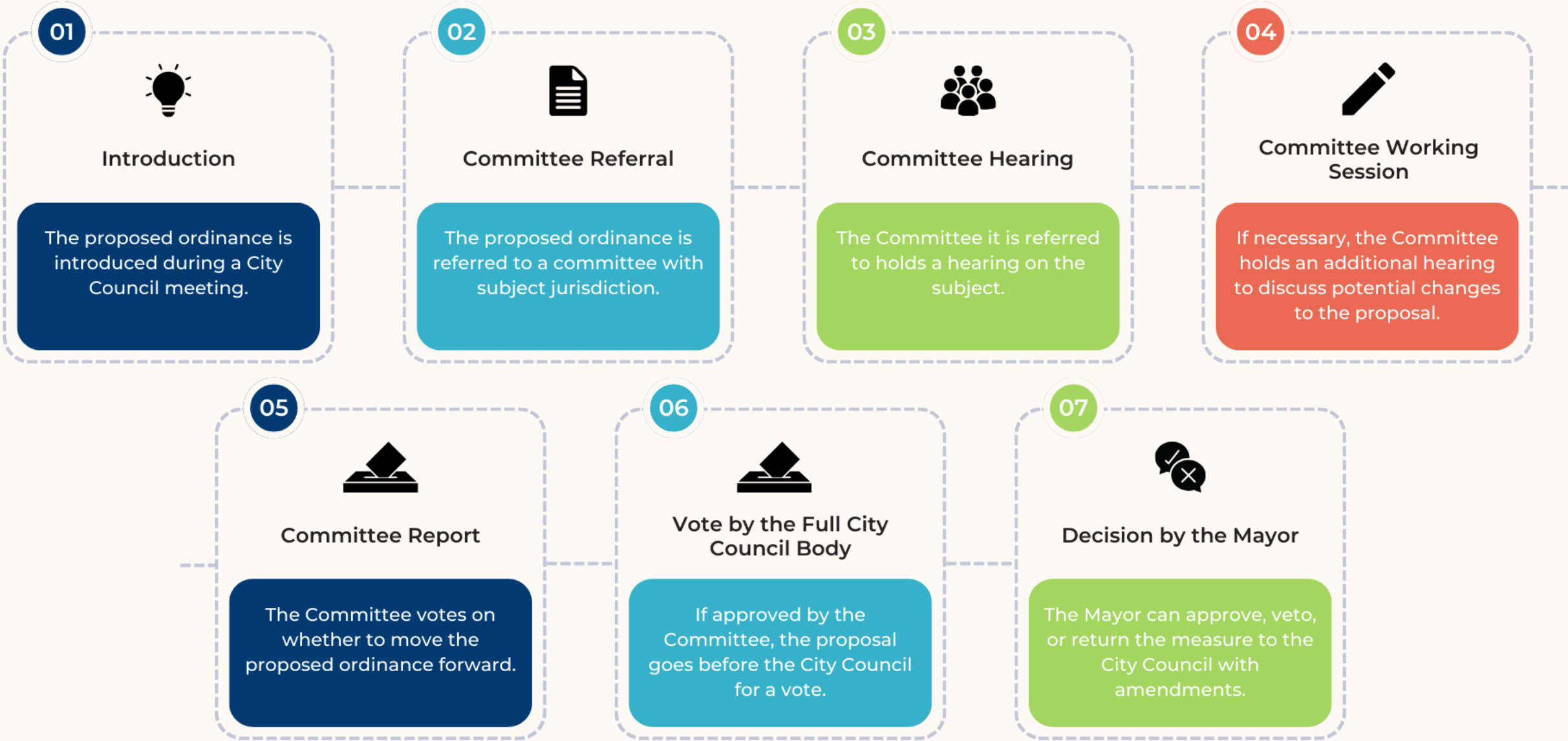






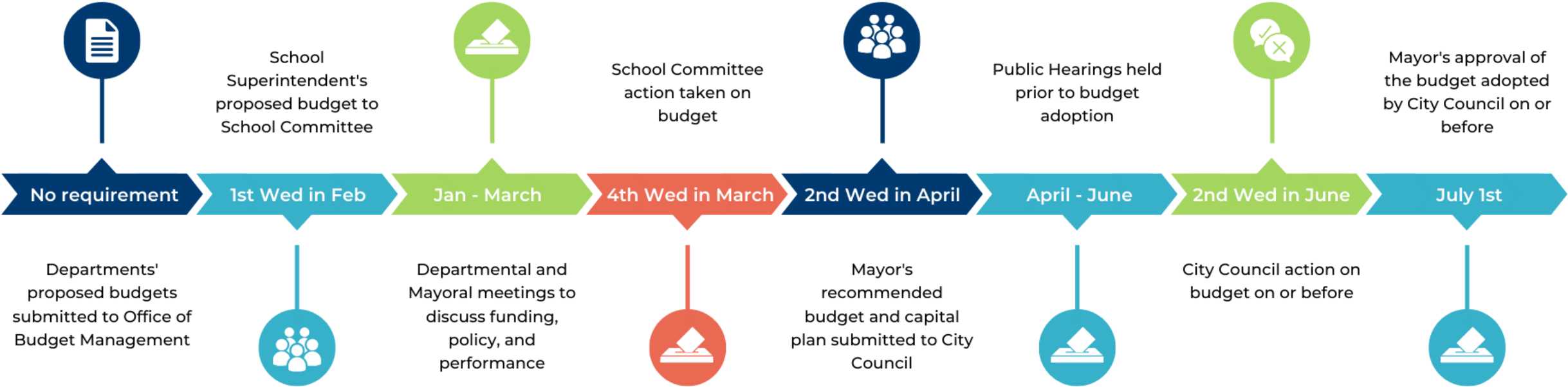
# Council Legislative and Budgetary Procedure

# CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE





# CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PROCEDURE



# State Legislative Background and Procedure



# State House Update

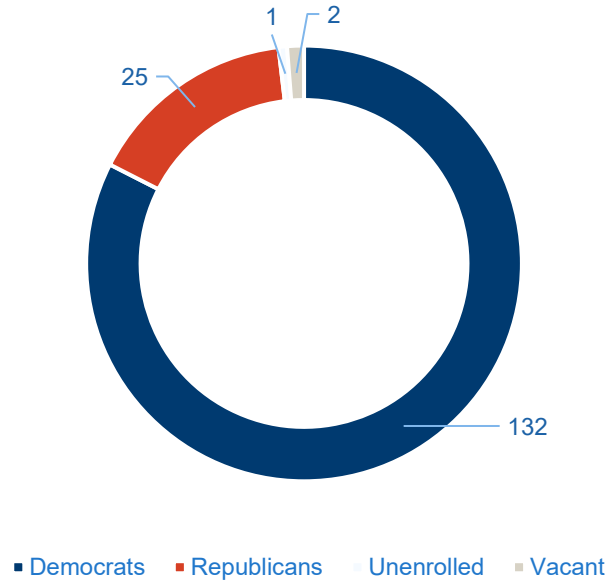
## Where We Are

- **We are in the second year of a two-year Legislative cycle**
  - *Nearly all bills have had a public hearing through the Committee process (late files are an exception)*
  - *Legislators were required to have passed major policy proposals or send them to Conference Committee by July 31*
    - *Conference Committees work towards rectifying differences between the House and Senate versions of bills by the end of the year*
- **Legislative Policy Priorities**
  - *Major policy priorities for this session include Energy Affordability, Data Privacy, Social Media Regulations, Primary Care Reform, Immigration Protections, and an Economic Development Bill, among others*
- **FY27 Budget Process Completed**
  - *The FY27 Budget was signed by the Governor on July 4*
  - *The \$63.4B spending plan represents a 4% increase from FY26*
- **2026 Elections**
  - *Elections for all Statewide officials, including the Governor, Lt. Governor, and all State Representatives and Senators will take place in the Fall of 2026*
  - *Nine ballot questions relating to different policy issues will also be found on this year's ballot*



# Legislative Size and Partisan Breakdown

Massachusetts House of Representatives Partisan Breakdown

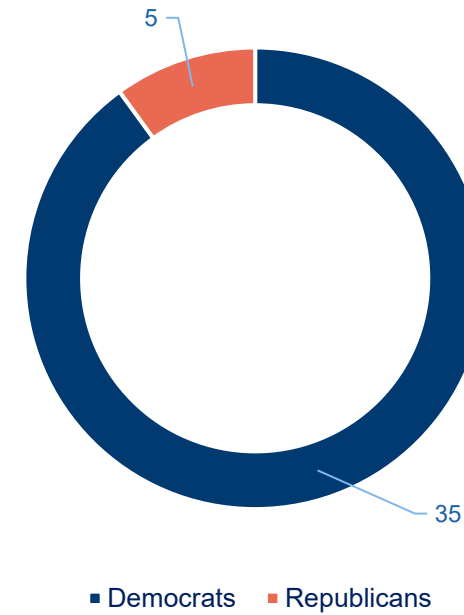


House Speaker  
Ron Mariano (D)



House Minority Leader  
Brad Jones (R)

Massachusetts Senate Partisan Breakdown

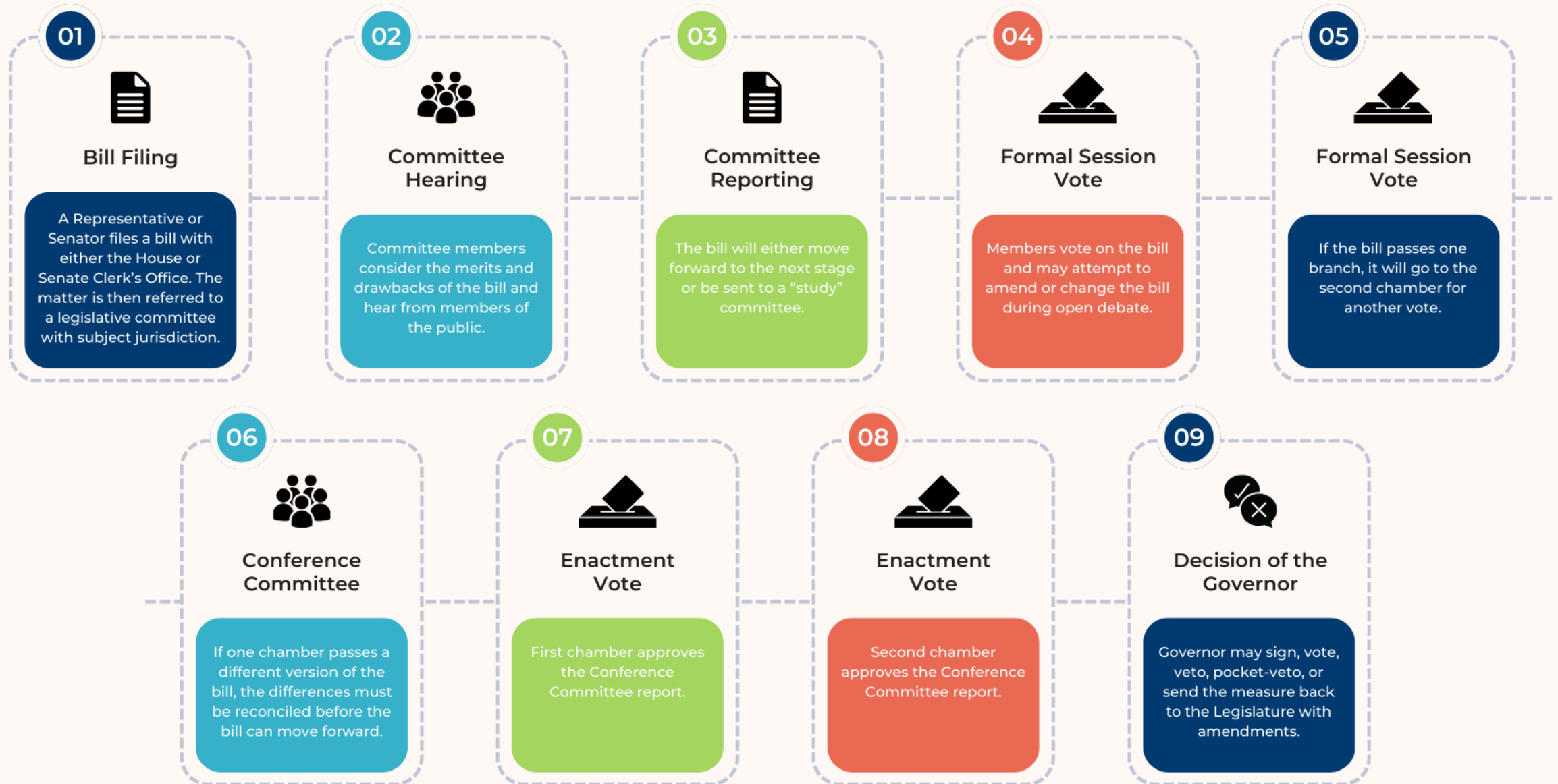


Senate President  
Karen Spilka (D)



Senate Minority Leader  
Bruce Tarr (R)

# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



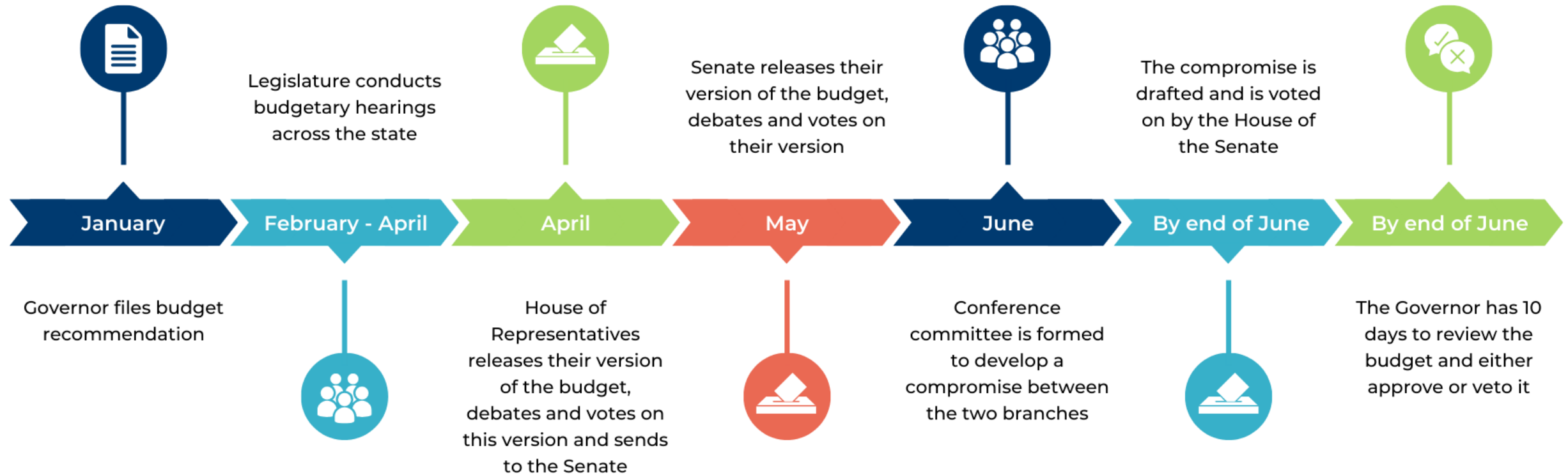
# State Budget Procedure





# TIMELINE

Massachusetts operates on a one-year budget with a fiscal year beginning July 1st and ending June 30th





**THANK YOU!**

Stay in touch:

Policy Department Contact Information

[policy@bostonchamber.com](mailto:policy@bostonchamber.com)