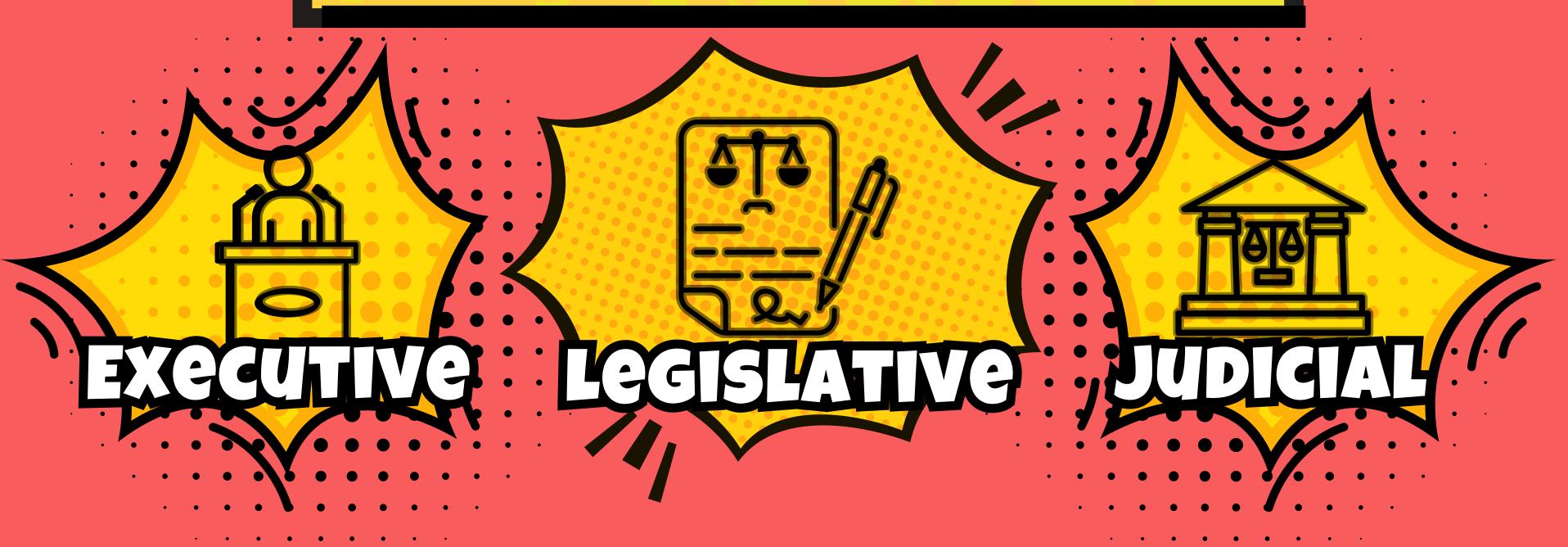


## WHAT IS THE LEGISLATURE BRANCHS

The legislative branch is one of the three branches of government. The Montgomery County Council is the legislative branch of the County government. The three branches of government are:



## WIE BUILD COUNTROUBLE

Meet your Councilmembers! There are eleven members of the Council who are elected to represent everyone who lives in Montgomery County. Seven represent a district and four the entire County.



Seven Councilmembers each DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS3 represent a district in the County... District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5 District 1 **District 6 District 7 Andrew Sidney** Kate Marilyn **Kristin Natali Dawn** Fani-González **Balcombe Stewart** Luedtke Friedson Katz Mink 2 ATE GREECING X QUICK Gabe Laurie-Anne Will Jawando **Evan Glass Albornoz** Sayles ••••• You can use the <u>Find My Councilmembers</u> Four Councilmembers **Tool** to find out who your representatives represent the entire County... are.

### WHATAROTHOTOP RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL?

Making laws for the County. We call this the Legislative process, which we will look at in more detail later.

Deciding how to use land in the County & what type of buildings or construction goes within that land.

Deciding what the County spends on programs, services and projects in the community.



Every decision the Council makes is important. Even if you can't vote yet, you have the power to impact the decisions they make.

## HOW DOESTHE COUNTIE DO ITS WORKS

Most of the Council's work happens through committees. There are eight Committees that focus on different areas. Each committee is led by a Chair and made up of 3 or 4 Councilmembers.



















Through each committee, the Council reviews bills, budgets, programs, and proposals. Visit the <u>Standing Committees at a Glance</u> page to learn more about each committee and the Councilmembers who are on them.





## LOTS TABLES OF LATES

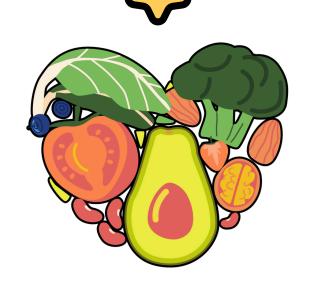
The Council uses the legislative process to make laws for the County.

Laws are rules that guide what we can and cannot do in our

community. For example, local laws in the County:



Limit how much landlords can raise the rent



Require restaurants to have healthy meal options for kids



Require kids under 18 to wear a helmet when using an e-scooter

You can influence this process.

## HOWAGIEGOMOSTIO KAWA

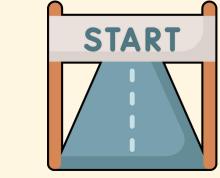
Each law in the County begins as a bill. A bill has to go through the legislative process to become a law. This process can be broken down into 6 stages.

### DEVELOPMENT



One or more Councilmembers develop an idea into a bill

## 23 INTRODUCTION



Councilmembers introduce the bill to the public

### PUBLICHEARING





Community members share their thoughts on the bill

## **bWORKSESSION**



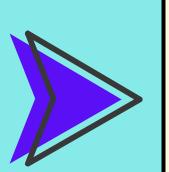
Councilmembers work together to amend the bill

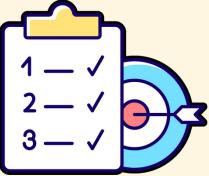
## 5



At least 6 Councilmembers must vote yes to enact the bill

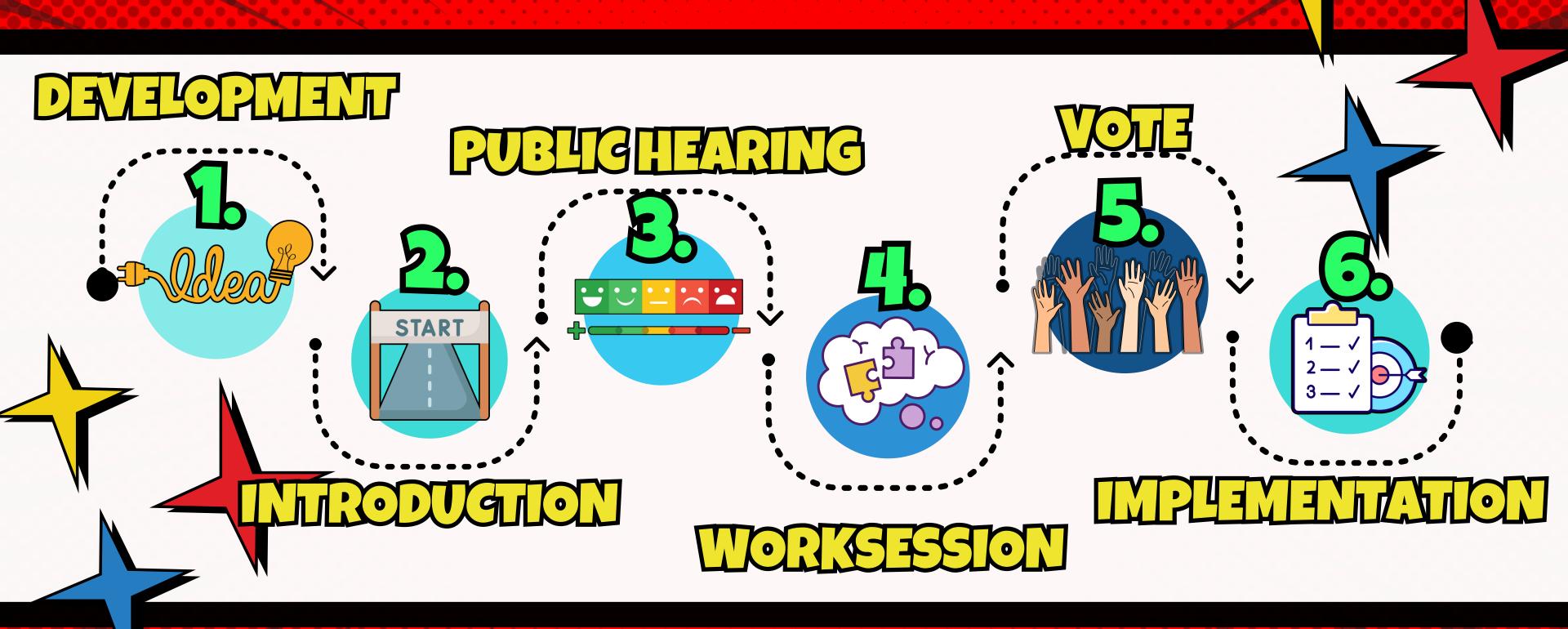
## **COMPLEMENTATION**

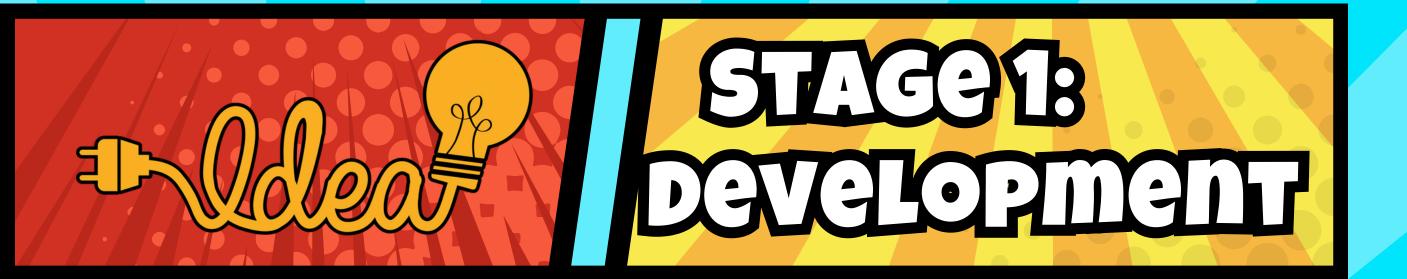




**County departments** implement the law

## LET'S EXPLORE THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS





During this stage, a Councilmember turns an idea into a bill. This idea can come from anyone, including you!

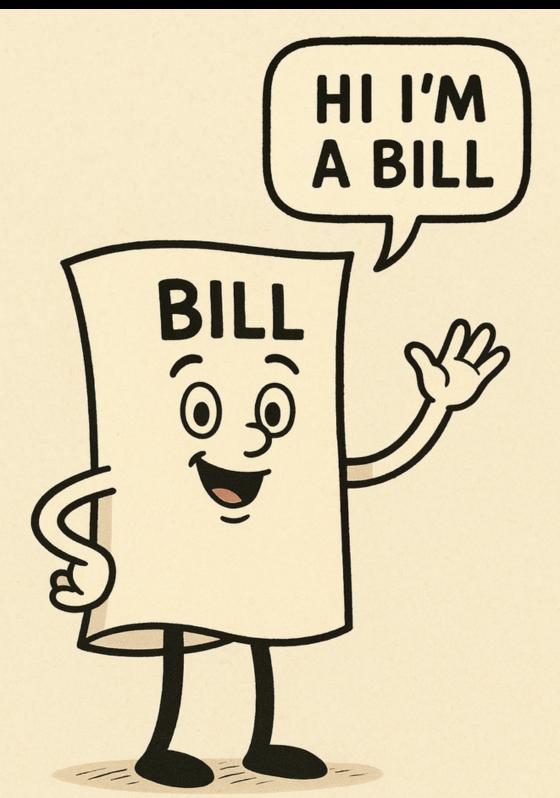
Councilmembers work with different groups of people to develop a bill. This includes community members, Council attorneys, and other staff in the County.

You can talk with your Councilmembers to share your idea. Organizing with others can help build support for your idea.





# STAGO E23 INTRODUCTION



During this stage, a Councilmember introduces a bill to the public. This usually happens during Council sessions on Tuesdays.

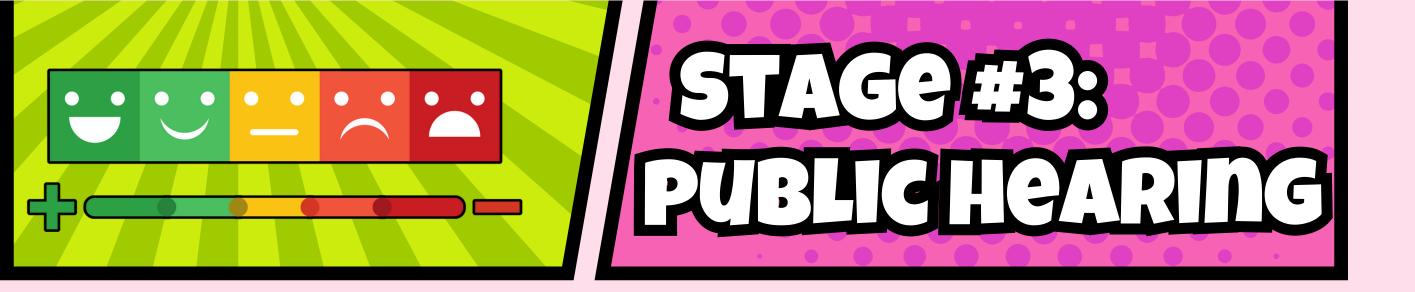
Bill introductions are also announced on the Council's e-mail newsletter and social media.

After a bill is introduced, you can keep track of its progress in the <u>Legislative Information System</u>.



You can check the 'Introduction of Bills' section of a <u>Council session agenda</u> to see if a bill will be introduced.





During this stage, community members can weigh-in on a bill. Public hearings usually happen during Council sessions on Tuesday afternoons, a few weeks after a bill is introduced.

You can <u>sign-up to speak</u> during a public hearing for a bill in-person or virtually.

You can also <u>upload your testimony</u> for a bill in writing, audio, or video.



# STAGE BY: WORKSESSION

During this stage, Councilmembers review a bill in a committee. They talk about the original bill and possible changes (called "amendments").

### Let's Look at how a bill moves through committee...



A committee worksession date is scheduled. The date is announced during the bill's introduction or public hearing.

#### DISCUSSION

During the worksession,
Councilmembers talk about the
bill with each other and others
who can help answer questions
on specific topics.

### amendments

Committee members may propose amendments. A majority of them have to vote in favor for amendments to be approved.

### vote

Committee members vote to make a recommendation on the bill. It then goes to the full Council for consideration and a final vote.



You can talk with your Councilmembers to suggest amendments for a bill.



## SIAGO E58 VOIO

During this stage, all Councilmembers vote on whether or not to pass a bill. The final vote on a bill usually happens during Council sessions on Tuesdays.



### Let's Look at how a bill moves through full council...

## Amendments

Councilmembers discuss the Committee's recommendation. They may introduce and vote on new amendments to the bill.

#### vote

Once ready for a vote, at least 6 Councilmembers have to vote yes for the bill to pass.

Fast-tracked ("expedited legislation") needs 7 votes.

## BILL -> LAW

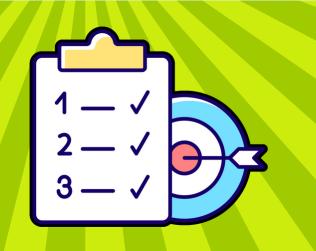
If the bill passes, it will take effect 91 days later, unless another date is chosen.

### veto power

The County Executive has 10 days to approve or veto the bill. If they veto the bill, the Council has 60 days to override it with 7 votes.



You can check the 'Call of Bills for Final Reading' section of a <u>Council session agenda</u> to see if a bill is up for a vote. Bills scheduled for a vote are also announced on the Council's e-newsletter and social media.



# STAGE#63 IMPLEMENTATION

During this stage, the executive branch makes sure the law is followed. A bill will typically say the office that is responsible for its implementation.

Sometimes, an office has to put together rules to enforce the law. These rules are called "regulations."

The Council may have to vote on the regulations before the office can use them.

The office can make resources to help the community understand the law.

The Council may hold worksessions to see how the law is working.





Organizing with others can help you build more support to make the change you want to see a reality.

Talk and listen to your friends and classmates about what matters to you and them.

Start a
petition and
petition with
share it with
share friends
your friends
and
neighbors.

Once you have agreed on an issue to tackle set clear goals & make a plan.

Talk to a teacher or a local leader for tips on how to organize.



Join or start a student club at school or in your community.



## WORKWITH YOUR GROUP TO DEVELOP AND MESSAGE



Once you have figured out an issue, work with your group to create a message about it. As you develop the message, think about:

- Your concern, who it affects and its impact.
- A story or an example about your concern.
- Facts and data about your concern.
- A solution for your concern (your "ask").



