

Political Science NY 101

1. Advocacy is year round.
2. It is a relationship.
3. The main players at the State are:
 - a. The Governor – he proposes a State Budget
 - b. The Legislature – they vote on the Governor’s budget. They cannot propose a budget of their own, but they can add to the budget (and they usually do).
 - i. The Senate – 62 members
 - ii. The Assembly – 150 members
 - c. Other important players
 - i. Division of the Budget – works with the Governor’s office to prepare the budget
 - ii. Division of Library Development – the library “agency” that is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations related to library funding
 - iii. NYLA – your professional association which plays a very strong role in educating all of the above about the needs of the library community
4. The main players locally:
 - a. Mayor
 - b. Town supervisor
 - c. Town council
 - d. [Who influences your budget?]
5. The “year” – example for the State: Create your own for your LOCAL BUDGET CYCLE – see sample in handouts
 - a. Summer – Fall : Governor and DoB are working on budgets – Fall is the time to contact the Governor
 - b. Fall – after the elections: a good time to start local legislative appointments
 - c. By January 31: the Governor must present his budget
 - d. February – March: the Legislative houses meet separately to work on/react to the Budget
 - i. There may be Committee hearings during this time – an opportunity for those in Albany to speak to the Committees (NYLA does this
 - ii. There will be separate “budget bills” and then the two houses will work together to present a joint proposal – by April 1???
 - e. April 1 -- The Governor signs – or vetoes -- the budget bill. He can also do nothing, which is the same as signing.
6. Thank the legislators.
7. Go back to Number 1.