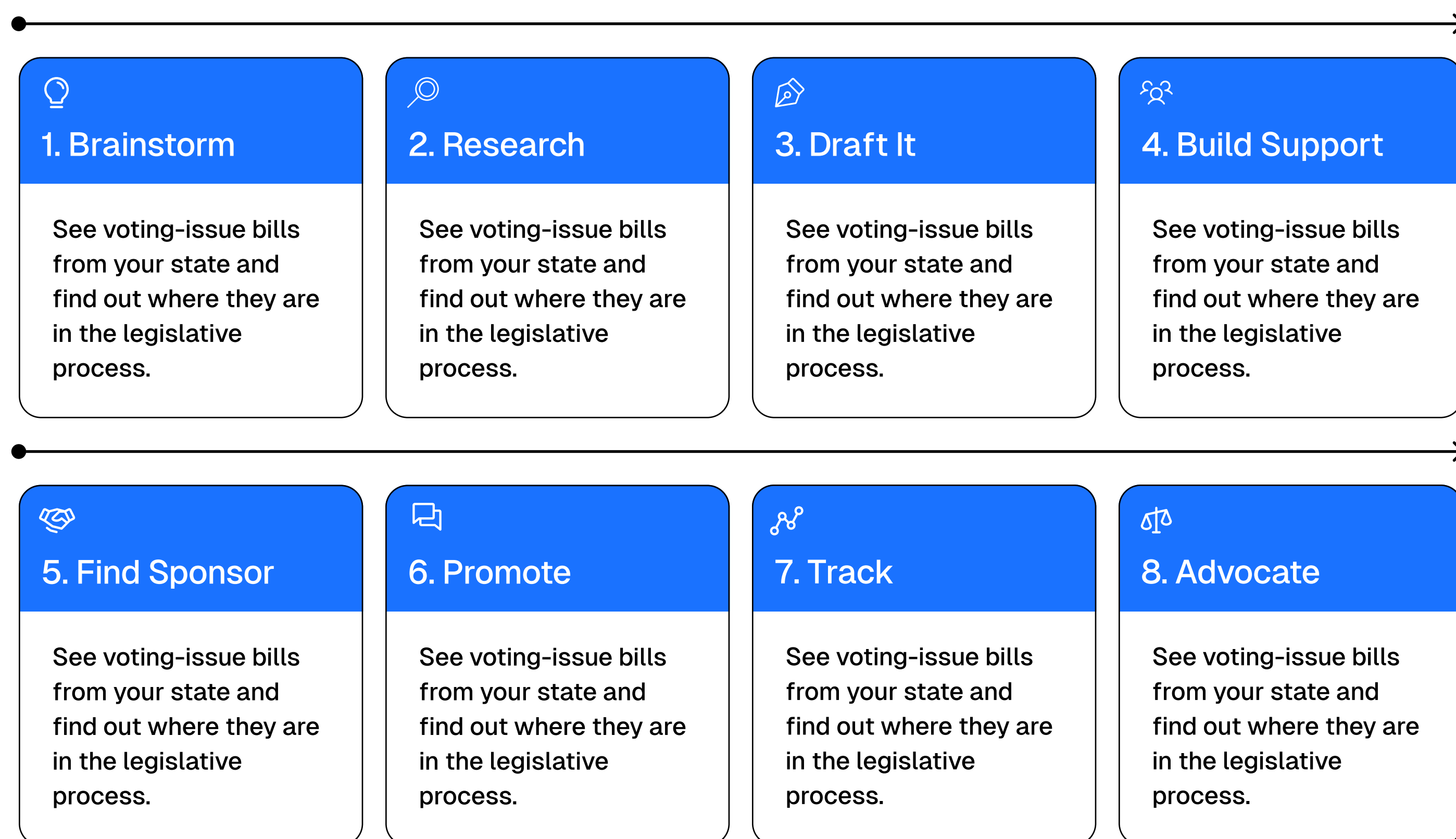


Citizen- Led Model Legislation

FAQs



What is “Model Legislation”?

- **Model legislation** is pre-written bill language created by advocacy groups, think tanks, or national networks to be introduced in multiple states (e.g., ALEC, NCSL, ACLU, Heritage Foundation).
- When created by legislatures, model legislation often spreads quietly—sometimes without citizens realizing it's being copied across states.

What makes a good model bill?

- Solves a specific problem
- Easy to understand
- Constitutionally sound
- Can be enforced
- Has a clear mechanism for action (not just “encouraged” language)

How do you spot it?

- Look for keywords like:
 - "A bill to ensure uniform standards..."
 - "This act shall be known as..."

What can citizens do to track legislative-created model legislation?

- Volunteers can be assigned to track bills in:
 - Their own state legislature
 - Targeted policy categories (education, voting, parental rights, etc.)
- Use watchlists and alerts to **flag bills that match model templates.**

How do you organize around it?

Volunteers can:

- **Inform communities** of copy-paste policies entering their state
- **Host briefings** or webinars explaining the bill's origins and risks
- **Submit testimony or public comment**
- **Mobilize calls/emails** to legislators based on understanding the bill's national backing

How do you know if you should advocate for a bill?

- If a bill **aligns with liberty**: Help **build momentum** through grassroots pressure
- If a bill **threatens liberty**:
 - **Investigate its origins**
 - **Educate citizens** on how it was used in other states
 - **Offer alternate language** to lawmakers

How can you get involved?

- **Build bill comparison teams** – review new bills against known templates
- **Create a rapid response network** – ready to show up for hearings or submit comments
- **Gather a legislator engagement team** – hand-deliver briefings or call for amendments
- **Deploy a social media team** – amplify alerts, infographics, or exposés

Do you need to be a lawyer to write a bill?

No! Many impactful bills have been drafted by regular citizens. Clear, logical writing focused on one issue is often more effective than legal jargon.

Can you introduce a bill yourself?

Only elected lawmakers can formally introduce legislation, but you can write the draft and ask a legislator to sponsor it.

What if your legislator won't support it?

Find another one. Local reps, state senators, or even city council members might be more aligned. Build public support to show it's a winning issue.

Can I use a bill from another state?

Yes! Many laws start as “copycat” or model bills from other successful states. Just make sure to adapt it to your state's constitution and legal language.

Will my bill really get passed?

Possibly—but even if it doesn't on the first try, it can:

- Start the conversation
- Shift public opinion
- Influence future policy
- Lead to success in the next session

Where can I get help drafting or editing my bill?

- Pro-liberty legal groups
- State policy think tanks
- Citizen activist networks (like True the Vote, FACL, Heritage Action, etc.)

For more resources visit [LegiTrack.org](https://legitrack.org)