

Bill Tracking

Bill tracking is the systematic process of monitoring the progress, changes, and status of proposed legislation (bills and resolutions) as they move through legislative bodies such as state legislatures or the US Congress.

Advocacy organizations, lobbyists, and advocates use online tracking services or create in-house tools to stay informed about the status of bills in the legislative process. Comprehensive bill tracking enables advocates to engage strategically, influence outcomes, and advocate for their policy priorities as bills become law. Tracking involves identifying bills of interest, monitoring committee actions, amendments, hearings, and votes, and analyzing the potential impact of proposed legislation on specific issues or causes. It serves as a crucial tool for effective advocacy and civic participation in our democracy. Overall, bill tracking ensures that you are well-informed about legislative developments, enabling you to effectively advocate for desired policy outcomes.

At a high level, tracking bills involves the following steps:

Identification: Translate the issues that are relevant to your organization's mission or interests into a list of bills to track — often using legislative databases, state websites, and/or advocacy platforms.

Monitoring: Continuously follow the progress of identified bills, tracking committee assignments, amendments, and scheduled hearings.

Analysis: Assess the content and potential impact of bills, considering their alignment with your advocacy goals.

Engagement: Strategically engage with policymakers by providing input during committee hearings, sharing position statements, and communicating with legislators.

Informing Supporters: Keep supporters informed about bill progress, encouraging them to take action or engage in advocacy efforts.

Various bill-tracking software options are available to empower advocacy organizations in their legislative efforts. Prominent tools like Quorum, [Voting Rights Lab](#), LegiScan, and BillTrack50 offer comprehensive solutions for monitoring bill progress, amendments, and committee actions. Additionally, many state legislatures provide dedicated websites for bill tracking, ensuring direct access to state legislative information.

It's important to note that, while these tools provide diverse functionalities, each organization can choose the solution that aligns with their needs and preferences. Whether utilizing a specialized platform or state-specific resources, the goal remains the same: to effectively engage with the legislative process and advocate for meaningful change. A bill-tracking solution should be selected based on what best suits the objectives and operational dynamics of your organization.

LWVUS Legislative Tracking Support for Leagues

LWVUS’s Advocacy team is pleased to offer Quorum Legislative Tracking Sheets for interested Leagues! [Quorum](#) is a legislative tracking service that LWVUS utilizes internally to track state legislation and monitor high-level trends in state legislative sessions. This tool is also used to help state Leagues increase their capacity to track target legislation in their respective states.

How does the service work?

Access to Quorum requires a paid subscription, which LWVUS covers. Because LWVUS maintains the subscription, only a few members of LWVUS staff have direct access to log in and create bill tracking sheets in Quorum. *However*, once we create a tracking sheet for a League, the link can be shared with anyone, embedded in your website (if you choose to create a public-facing tracking sheet), and LWVUS can add any new bills that you would like.

Quorum tracking sheets will look like this:

LWVUS							Demo Sheet	
Search by title...							Q	Download
Bill	Stance	Issues	Status Text	Last Timeline Action	Source Link			
1	S.B. 10: HUNTING/TRAPPING/FISHING; DISABLED VETS		Passed Original Chamber	(H) Moved Senate Bill 10 Out Of Committee	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=SB%20%2010			
2	H.B. 51: USE OF DESIGNATED REFRIGERANTS		Out of Committee	(H) Cosponsor(S): Schrage, Josephson	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2051			
3	H.J.R. 5: ALASKA FISHERIES; TROLL FISHERIES		Out of Committee	(H) Cosponsor(S): Mccabe	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HJR%20%205			
4	H.J.R. 6: NAT'L PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA		Sent to Executive	(H) Legis Resolve 2	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HJR%20%206			
5	S.B. 86: REJECT COMPENSATION COMM RECOMMENDATIONS		Passed Original Chamber	(S) Version: Senate Bill 86	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=SB%20%2086			
6	H.B. 88: WAREHOUSE WORK QUOTA INFORMATION		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Referred To Labor & Commerce	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2088			
7	H.B. 86: MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Referred To Labor & Commerce	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2086			
8	H.B. 85: PROFESSIONAL LICENSING; TEMP PERMITS		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Referred To Labor & Commerce	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2085			
9	H.B. 83: CITIZEN ADVISORY COMM ON FEDERAL AREAS		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Scheduled But Not Heard	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2083			
10	H.B. 87: PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Referred To Labor & Commerce	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2087			
11	H.B. 89: DAY CARE ASSIST./CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Referred To Health & Social Services	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2089			
12	H.B. 82: SELECTION AND REVIEW OF JUDGES		Introduced or Prefiled	(H) Referred To Judiciary	http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/3/Root=HB%20%2082			

Interested Leagues may request a tracking sheet for their state by sending an email to their designated Legislative and Policy Coordinator or advocacy@lwv.org with the subject line “LWV [STATE] Legislative Tracking Setup”. Please include the following information:

- A list of information fields and any custom fields that the League would like to appear on the tracking sheet. See the list of options for information fields in the graphic below.
- Are you interested in creating an embeddable link to post on your website? This would allow anyone who visits your website to see the bills that you are tracking and where you stand on those bills (if you select the “stance” field when your tracking sheet is created).

Field Options:

2023 Indiana Legislative Tracking | Add Column ✕

1
Type of Column

Type

Basic Info	Notes & Interactions	Documents
Custom Fields	Blank Fields, Lists, & Math	Issues

2
Additional Information

Region <input type="checkbox"/>	Region Abbreviation <input type="checkbox"/>	Type <input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Number <input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Label without Title <input type="checkbox"/>	Title <input type="checkbox"/>
Title (no number) <input type="checkbox"/>	Official Description <input type="checkbox"/>	Custom Description <input type="checkbox"/>
Committees <input type="checkbox"/>	Legislative Issues <input type="checkbox"/>	Companion Bill <input type="checkbox"/>
Source Link <input type="checkbox"/>	Internal Quorum Link <input type="checkbox"/>	

Timeline 🔍

Status Text <input type="checkbox"/>	Status Date <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Introduced <input type="checkbox"/>
Detailed Status <input type="checkbox"/>	Detailed Status Date <input type="checkbox"/>	Days Since Introduced <input type="checkbox"/>
Last Timeline Action <input type="checkbox"/>	Last Timeline Action Date <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing Dates <input type="checkbox"/>
Start of Session <input type="checkbox"/>	Future Hearing Dates <input type="checkbox"/>	End of Session <input type="checkbox"/>

Sponsorship Info

Number of Sponsors <input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsors List <input type="checkbox"/>	Primary Party <input type="checkbox"/>
Number of Cosponsors <input type="checkbox"/>	Cosponsors List <input type="checkbox"/>	# of Republican Cosponsors <input type="checkbox"/>
# of Democratic Cosponsors <input type="checkbox"/>		

Tracking Info

Your Organization's Stance <input type="checkbox"/>	Your Organization's Priority <input type="checkbox"/>	All Lists <input type="checkbox"/>
Stance Modified (User) <input type="checkbox"/>	Stance Modified (Date) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority Modified (User) <input type="checkbox"/>
Priority Modified (Date) <input type="checkbox"/>		

Your designated Legislative and Policy Coordinator contact will be managing your tracking sheet. This is the same LWVUS Advocacy contact who conducts monthly check-ins for your League's advocacy team. LWVUS will generate a sheet in Quorum and a corresponding editable Google Sheet from [this template](#), then share both the link and the editable Google Sheet with your League. **Leagues will make any updates in the Google Sheet and notify their Legislative and Policy Coordinator of that update, and we will update the sheet within 48-72 hours unless otherwise requested.**

Each League will be given a link to an external-facing Quorum sheet of the bills tracked. No login is required to access your tracking sheet. Leagues can also request an embeddable link to display their tracking sheet on their League website. LWVUS will only share your League's tracking sheet link with your League's advocacy team and contacts. Should you choose to publicly publish the external link shared with you, anyone can view that Legislative tracking sheet. State Leagues will **not** have access to the backend of the legislative tracking sheet.

The information in your tracking sheet, including bill status, actions, sponsors, committee information, hearings, etc., are all automatically updated through Quorum's system. Information in any custom fields requested by a League must be communicated to the designated Legislative and Policy Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can I sort the spreadsheet by column?

Yes, there are filter options and sorting options available at the top of each column, i.e., sort the bills by bill type, bill number, stance, and issue. These can be updated at any time and do not permanently change the sheet.

2. How many columns can I select? How many custom columns can I create?

You can select as many or as few columns from Quorum as you like. You can also create as many custom columns as you like; just know that your League will be responsible for relaying that information through your custom [Google sheet](#).

3. Will we be able to see bill drafts in the Quorum tracking sheet? (i.e. a bill in LRB form)

No, you will not be able to see bill drafts. Only bills that have been introduced or pre-filed and published on a state legislature's website are available through Quorum.

4. Does the column "Future Hearing Dates" show the name of the committee as well as the date?

No. You can, however, include a committee column in your sheet, and this will show you the name of the committee.

5. How often does Quorum update the bills?

Typically, as soon as a legislature and its committees have updated their information on their website, Quorum will populate its fields with the latest information.

6. Should I wait to send you bills to track until after we have all the details settled on what the columns are?

There is no need to wait; a Legislative and Policy Coordinator can still generate a sheet based on bill selections and later customize and select columns.

7. What format do the bills need to be in when I send them?

Simple bill type and number (i.e. SB 124, HB 2, SJR 5, etc.).