

Senator Bob Mensch

Senator for a Day

Tips for Becoming a Senator for a Day

Congratulations! You are about to become a Senator for a Day. As a Senator, it will be your job to be prepared to discuss the bills and vote on them in committee. Remember—you are representing your constituents who have elected you. Think about how they would want you to vote.

1. There are two bills that your committee will address. Be sure to review the topics and be ready to discuss the merits of the bill.
2. Rarely is a bill proposed that has unanimous support. As a result, there are many special interest groups that will have an interest in the outcome of the legislation. Some will be opposed to it and others will support it. Carefully examine both of the bills that will be discussed.
3. As a Senator, you will be expected to amend, pass or kill the bill.
4. The committee will need to select a prime sponsor for each of the bills. This person will be the bill's primary spokesperson.
5. The committee will also need to select a Chairperson. The Chair will run the meeting and maintain proper decorum.

At the beginning of the session, there will be a review of the legislative process. In addition, members of the legislative staff and lobbyists will be available to guide you through the process of the committee meeting. Do not hesitate to ask questions.

The purpose of this exercise is to give you a hands-on experience in the legislative process. And of course, we want you to enjoy the day!