

Intro to the State House

Training #1



Natural Resources
Council of Maine

Protecting the Nature of Maine





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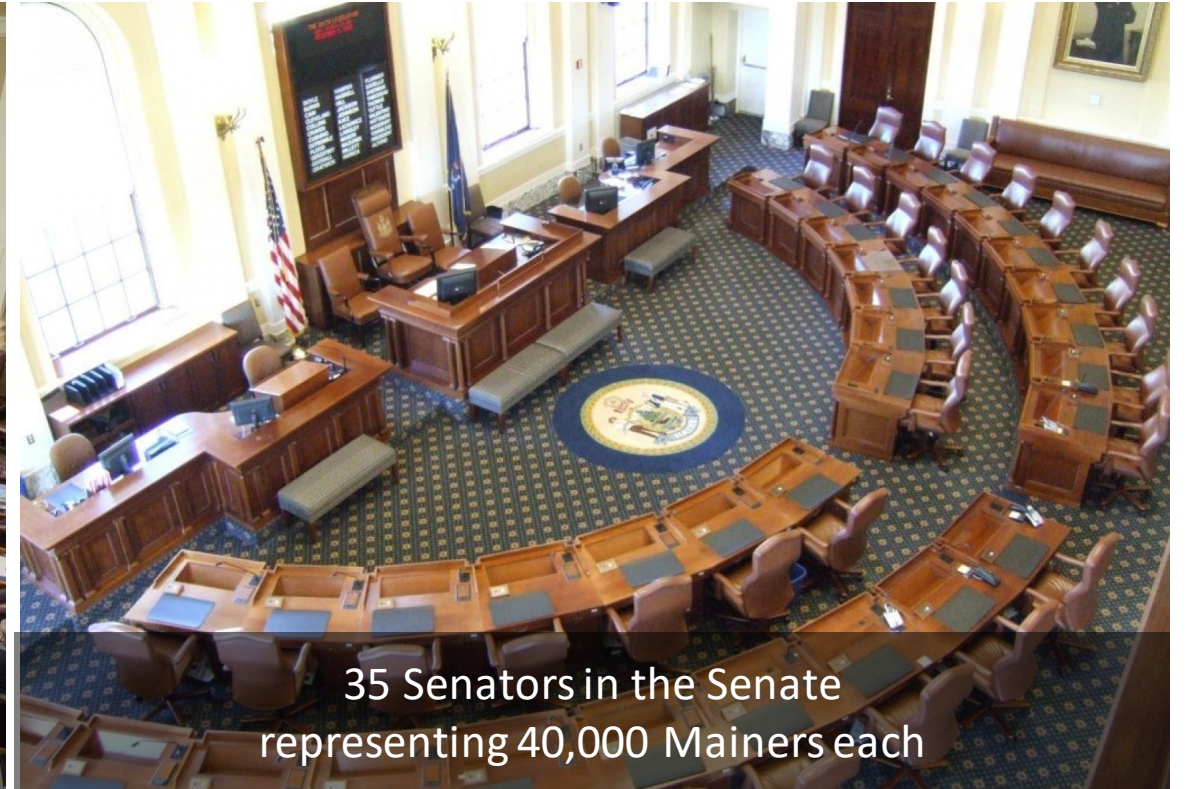
NRCM Outreach Team

Participants – Please introduce yourself in the chat, sharing your name and where you're zooming in from tonight.

What to expect

- Welcome and introductions
- Section 1:
 - Make-up of the Maine Legislature
 - Navigating the legislative process, including tracking bills and opportunities for public input
 - Q&A
- Section 2:
 - Power mapping overview
 - Q&A
- Closing

Maine State Legislature



Maine's Legislative Process



Works on a two-year schedule



Lawmakers are elected in November, and legislative session begins in January



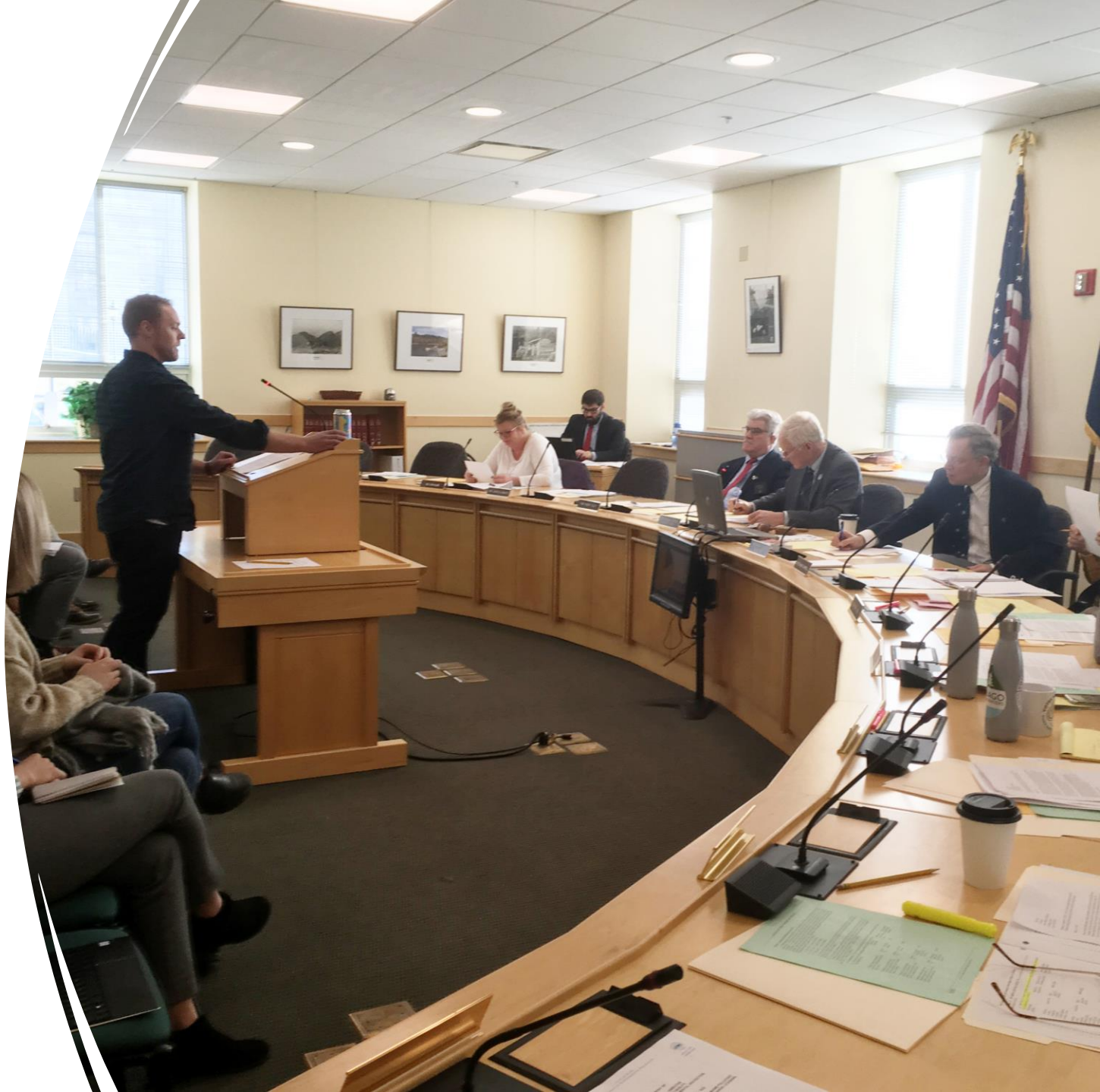
At beginning of each legislative session, lawmakers submit thousands of proposed bills



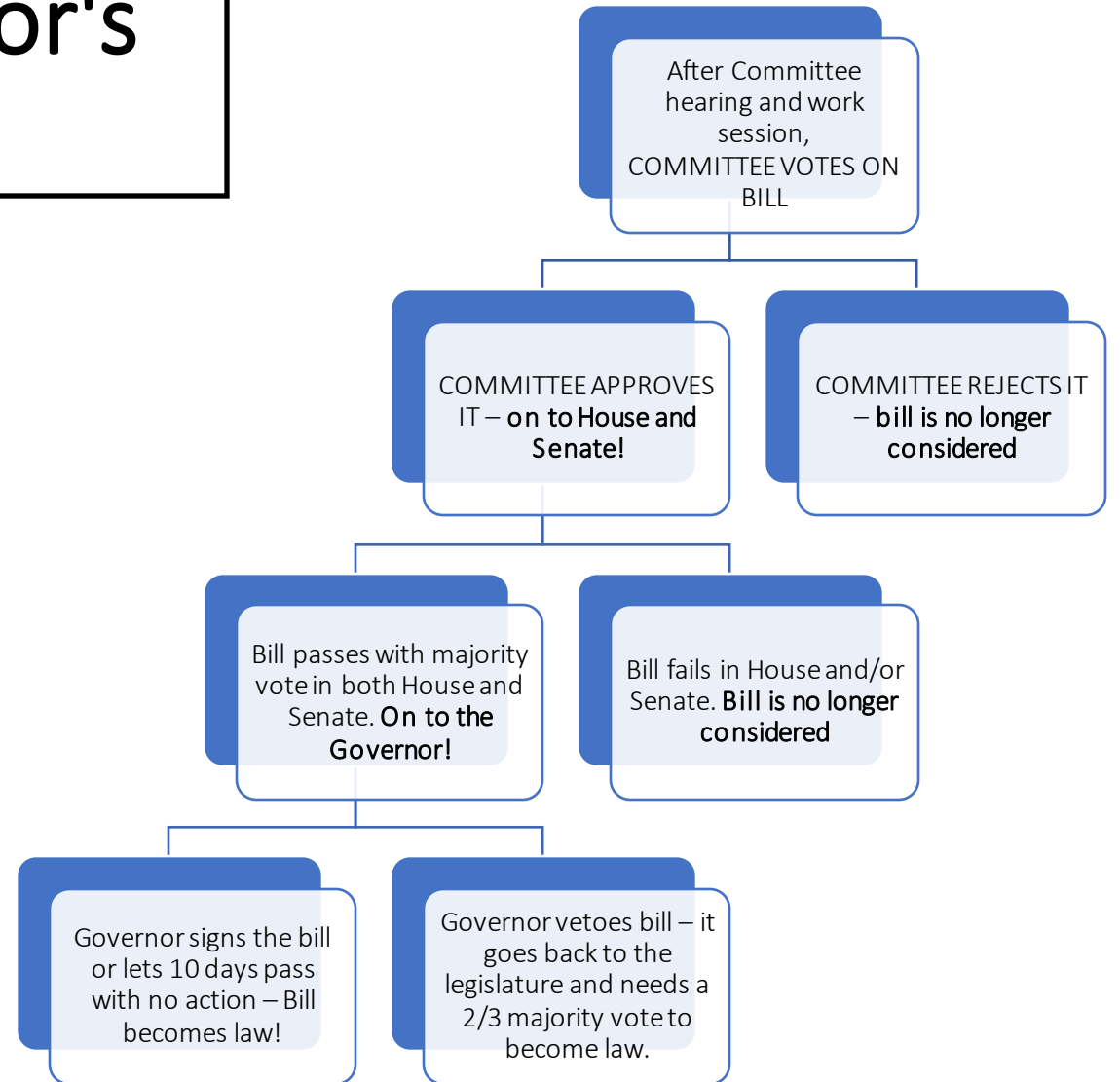
Each bill receives an "LD number" and is assigned to one of 19 committees

Committees and Public Hearings

- Committees are made up of both House and Senate members and specialize in specific topic areas.
- Committees include:
 - Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
 - Energy, Utilities, and Technology
 - Environment and Natural Resources
 - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 - Transportation
 - Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
- Committees review bills and give each one a **public hearing**



Floor Votes and Governor's Desk



When can you weigh in?



Lawmaker is elected

Introduce yourself to your lawmaker & suggest issues of concern to lawmaker for bill ideas

Committee hosts public hearing and work session

Show up to a public hearing, testify live, or submit written testimony

Committee votes on bill

- Call, email, or meet with your lawmaker before committee or floor votes and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same
- Write and submit letters to the editor to your local paper
- Take actions like signing petitions with NRCM or other advocacy organizations
- Lobby your lawmaker in the statehouse (like at NRCM's State House Action Day!)

House and Senate vote on bill

Bill gets sent to the Governor's desk

Call or email the governor to support or oppose the bill

Bill becomes law or bill fails

Call or email your legislator to thank them or express your disappointment

Resources

- <https://legislature.maine.gov/>
 - Bill tracking
 - Event calendar (hearings, etc)
- NRCM's take action page, which is home to:
 - Active petitions and opportunities to contact your legislators
 - Finding your lawmakers contact info and tips to contact them
 - NRCM's Bill tracking page
 - Tips and how-to's on testifying
 - Tips and how-to's for writing letters to the editor

www.nrcm.org/get-involved/take-action/

Action Alerts and Petitions

Take action on our current priorities here.

Power Maine's Future with Offshore Wind



Add Your Voice

Support a Free-Flowing Kennebec River



Add Your Voice

Contact Your Elected Officials

Contacting your legislators or other elected officials is an effective way to make your voice heard and to influence their votes on issues that are important to you.

Find Your State Legislators & Contact Info



Find Members of Congress & Contact Info



Meet Legislators at State House Action Day



[Tips for Contacting Your Legislator](#)

Questions?



Relationships Matter: You Have the Power to Influence Outcomes

You and others in your community have the power to influence your legislator.

Power mapping can help.



What is Power Mapping?



Power mapping is a visual tool that helps identify who influences your legislators

Step 1: Who are your state legislators?

Not sure? We can help you look it up for you.

www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php



**State
Representative**



State Senator

Step 1: We will use U.S. Senator Angus King as our example

This is the person we're trying to influence to achieve our campaign goal of establishing the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument



Step 2: Convene a power mapping session

- Gather campaign allies and others who know information about the legislator
- Use butcher block paper. Power mapping is a visual tool that should be drawn.
- Bring the best facilitator you know
- Do basic research before you start



Step 3: Map influence to your legislator

Think about people, institutions, or constituencies that have relationships with your legislator and can potentially influence them.

Public Influences

Voters/Constituents

Media

Interest Groups

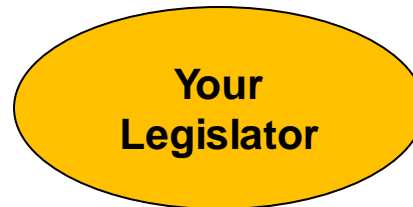
VIP Influences

Community Leaders

Opinion Leaders

Technical Experts

Business Leaders



Personal Influences

Friends and Family

Neighbors

Campaign Advisors

Former Employers and Coworkers

Carpool or Seat-Mate

Financial Influences

Campaign Donors

Investors

Business Partners

Step 3: Map influence to U.S. Senator Angus King

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Step 3: Map influence to your legislator — share in the chat

Who are people, institutions, or constituencies that have relationships with your legislator and can potentially influence them?

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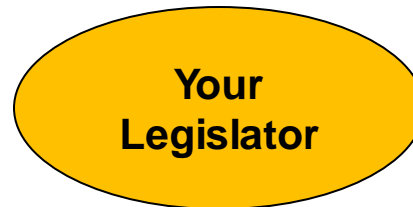
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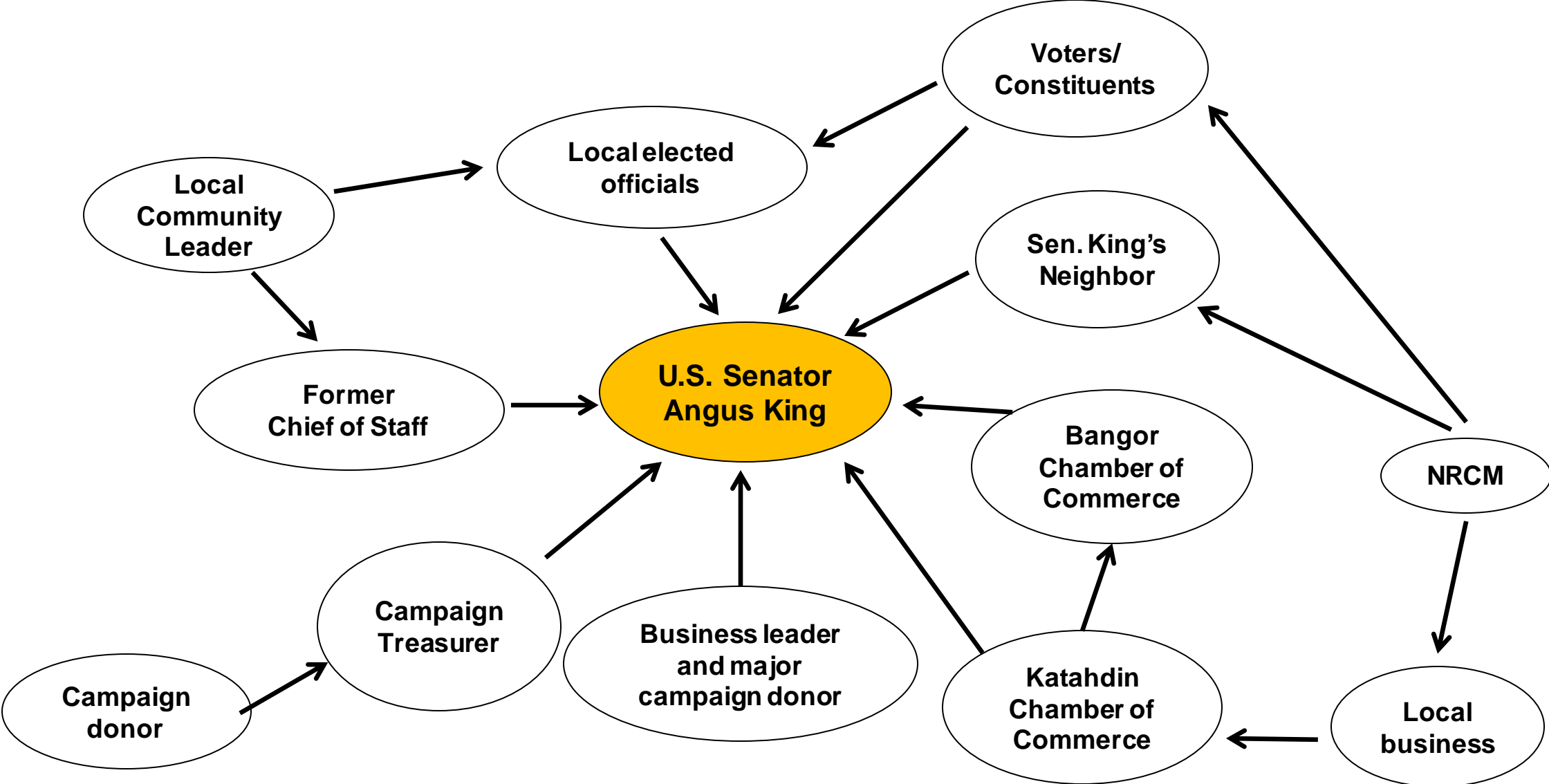
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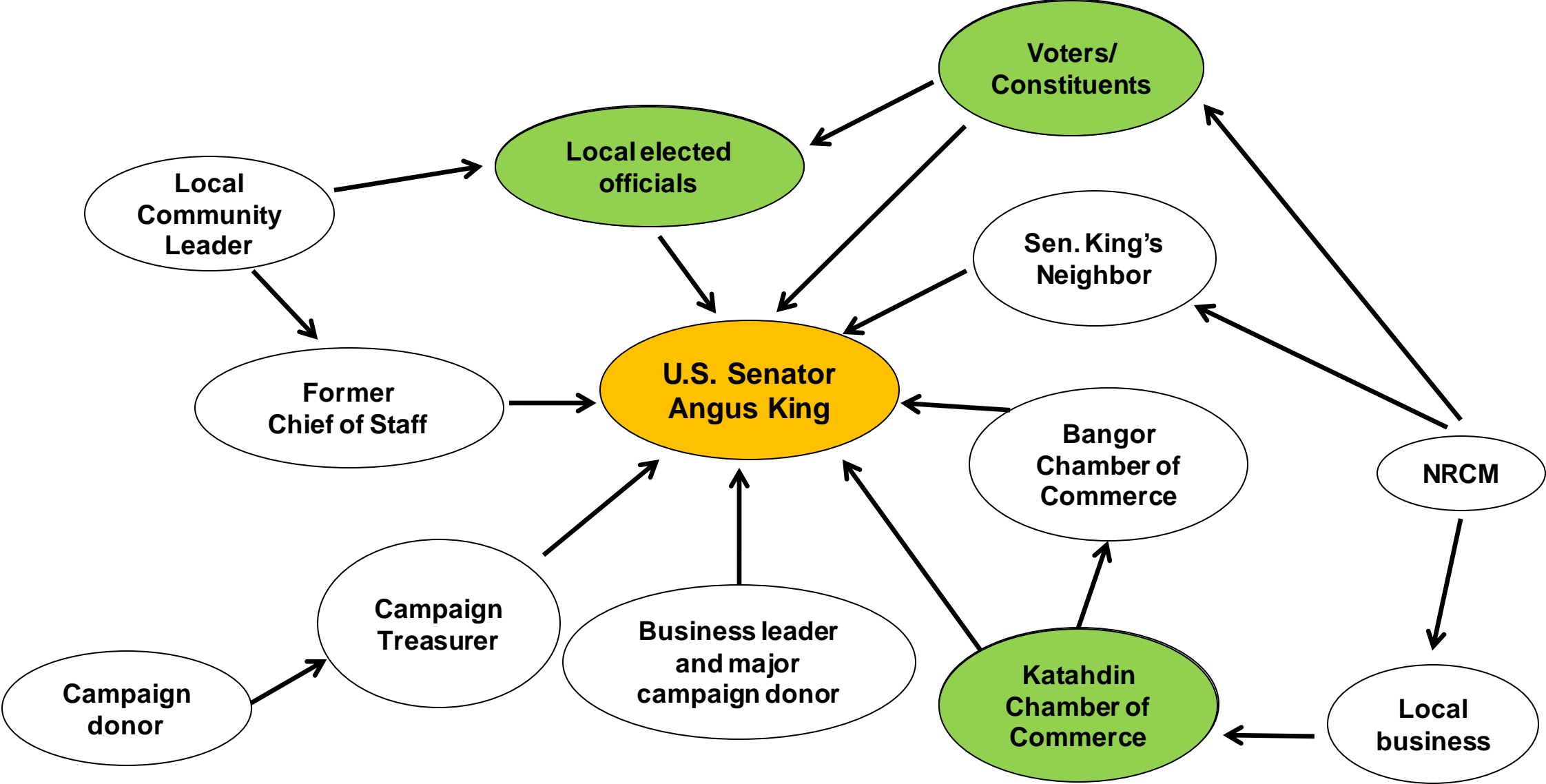
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Step 4: Determine relational power lines



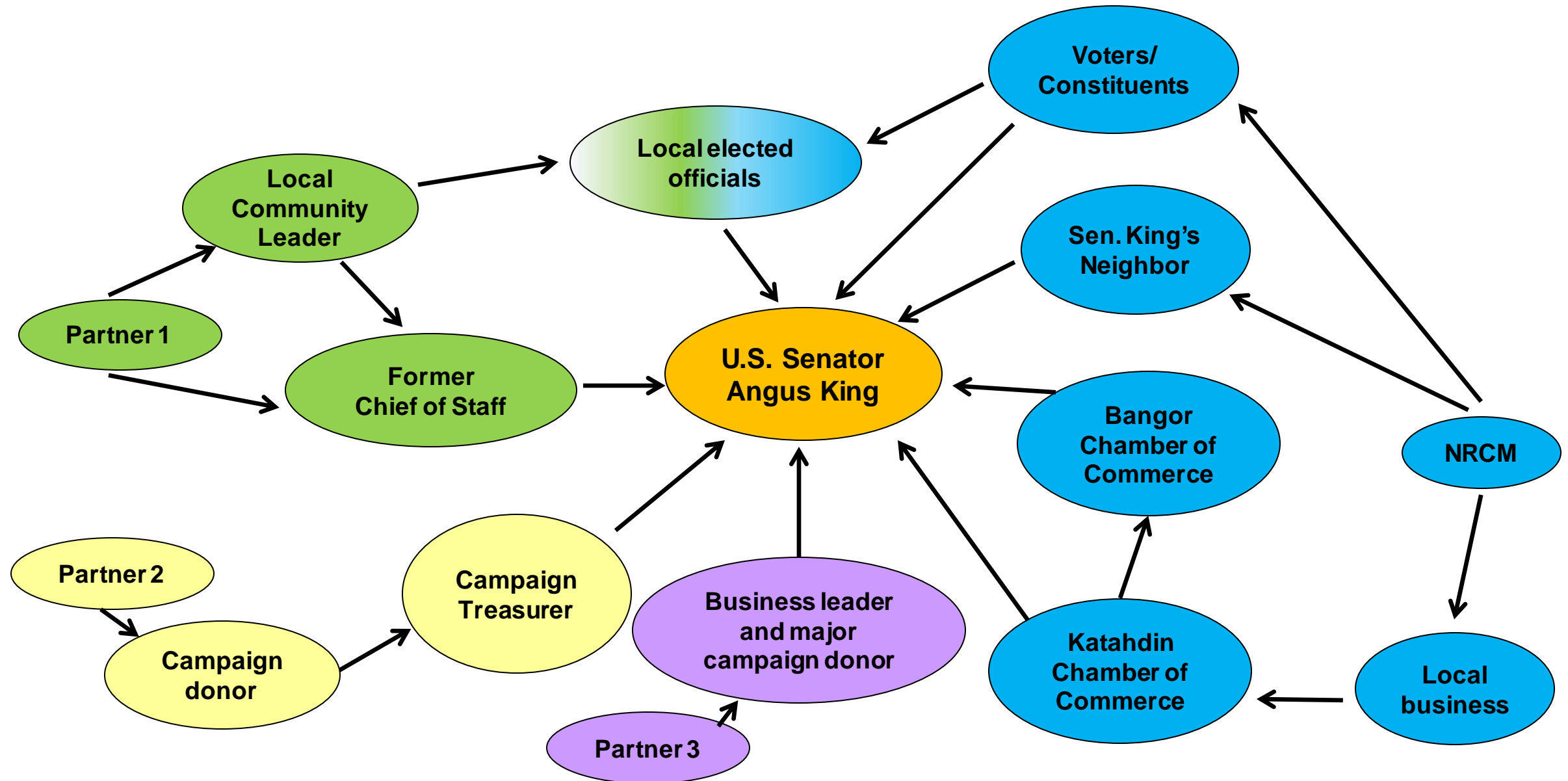
Step 5: Identify and target priority relationships

Highlight which relationships are most influential for your campaign goal.



Step 6: Make a plan

Create action steps for moving forward. Divvy up outreach among partners.



Questions?



Closing



Takeaways

There are lots of opportunities for public input.

You and others in your community can influence legislative outcomes.



NRCM is a resource

Share your Power Maps with us—we can help!

Look for our email with links to additional resources.



Feedback welcome

Please fill out our survey.

Upcoming Trainings

December 15

Making Your Voice Heard

Learn how to most effectively communicate with your lawmakers and other decision-makers—whether it's testimony, letters to the editor, lobby meetings, or other ways.



January 5

Building People Power

To pass new laws, we need more people to get involved. Learn how to talk to your family and friends about issues you care about.



Mid-January

Current Priorities and Taking Action

As the legislative session kicks off, learn about NRCM's current priorities and the best ways to be involved.

THANK
YOU

The text "THANK YOU" is presented in a playful, rounded font. The word "THANK" is on the top line and "YOU" is on the bottom line. The letters are colored in a gradient: 'T' and 'K' are blue, 'H' and 'O' are green, and 'A' and 'U' are yellow-green. The text is enclosed within a decorative border of a light green vine with small leaves. Dashed lines are visible on the top and right sides of the letters 'H', 'A', and 'U'.