



House Interim Committee On Rules Oversight Overview Presentation

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Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin



Pennsylvania Oversight Committee



Wayne State Law School



North Carolina General Assembly
Oversight Workshop

Workshops for Congress, state, international legislatures
Videos, testimony, webinars, social media
Research & Reports (50-state analysis, symposium, more)
Conferences, panels & events
State Oversight Academy
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DC Council Oversight Workshop

Agenda

- What is Legislative Oversight?
- Recommendations for Oregon
- Crafting an Oversight Plan

What is Legislative Oversight?

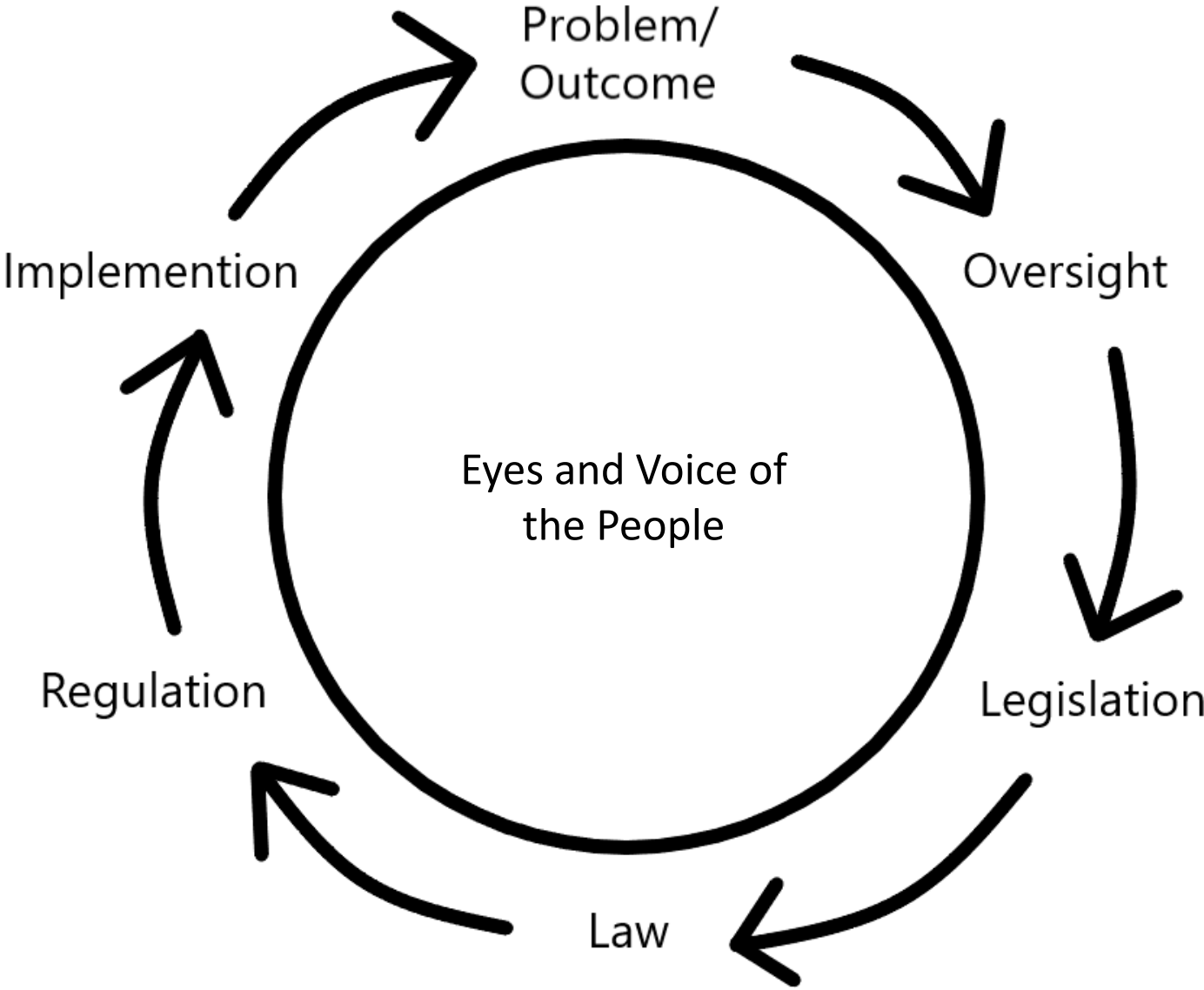
The “eyes and voice” of the people

“It is the proper duty of a representative body to look diligently into every affair of government and to talk much about what it sees. It is meant to be the eyes and the voice, and to embody the wisdom and will of its constituents.”

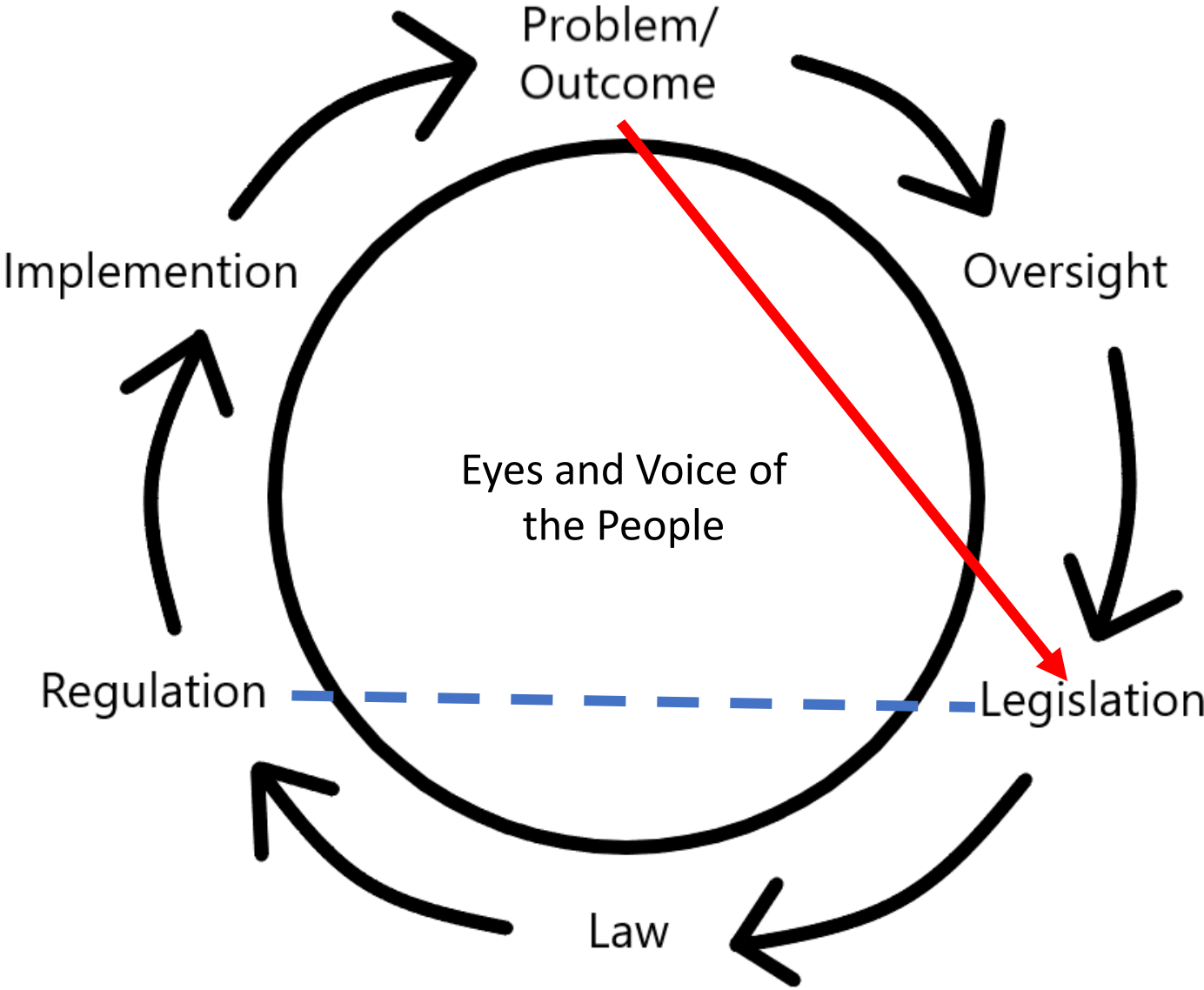
-- United States Supreme Court¹

¹ *United States v. Rumely*, 345 U. S. 41, 43 (1953).

Cycle of Accountability



Cycle of Accountability



State Oversight Academy Resources

- Videos
 - Oversight Overviews
 - Headlines
 - Masterclasses
- Blog, Testimony
- SOA Oversight Leaders
- Researchers and Practitioners in Partnership
- Oversight Consulting
- Newsletter



State Oversight Academy

State Legislature Oversight Wiki

go.levin-center.org/wiki

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Levin Center Home website. It includes a search bar, social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, and a main menu with the following items: About, What is Oversight? - Government Oversight, Events & Commentary, Levin Center at Work, State Oversight Academy, and Awards. Below the navigation bar is a banner for the "STATE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT WIKI 2.0" with a "SUPPORT NOW" button and a search bar.

This screenshot displays a grid of featured reports and resources. The grid is organized into three columns and four rows. The first column is titled "Featured Reports and Resources" and contains a document icon. The other three columns contain state-specific entries, each with a state seal icon and the state name: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, and Florida.

The screenshot shows the header of the Michigan page. It features a map of Michigan on the left and the text "Michigan" on the right. Below the map, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > State Legislative Oversight Wiki 2.0 > Michigan".

This screenshot shows the main content of the Michigan page. It includes several sections with expandable arrows on the right:

- Legislature**: Type of Legislature Michigan has a full-time, bicameral legislature. House of Representatives: 110 members | 2-year terms 12 years in...
- Committee Oversight Authority**: "Legislative committees; powers, punishment for contempt." "Sec. 1." Committees and commissions of or appointed by the legislature may by resolution...
- Standing Committees Focused on Oversight**: House Ethics and Oversight Committee Website Membership, testimony, and meeting minutes available on website. Purpose/Jurisdiction "Upon receipt of Auditor General..."
- Non-Standing Committees Focused on Oversight**: Joint Committee on Administrative Rules House Website / Senate Website Membership / membership; rulemaking process; documents; reports; regulatory plans; proposed...

Avenues for State Legislative Oversight

- Analytic Bureaucracies (UT)
- Appropriations Process (MI)
- Committees (NY, SC)
- Administrative Rule Review (CO, LA)
- Advice and Consent (MN)
- Monitoring Contracts (ID)

Masterclass: [Introduction to State Legislative Oversight](#)

Routine or Event-Driven Oversight?

Routine: "cop on the beat"	Event-Driven: "firefighter"
Program Outcomes	Scandal
Budgetary	Disaster
Contracts	Chronic Problems
Compliance	Escalating Problems
Deter Malfeasance	Long-term Investigation

Your Superpowers



- Legislator phone calls and emails get returned.
- Legislators can request investigations and reports.
- Legislator questions trigger research, reconsideration, change.
- Oversight can have as much, or more, impact as legislation.

Phases of an Investigation

1. Fact-Finding
2. Written Product
3. Hearing
4. Follow up



Tutorials: <https://levin-center.org/congressional-lawmakers/online-tutorials/>

Recommendations for Strengthening Oversight

- Joint oversight committee with balanced party membership
E.g., Michigan SJR O, 2022
- Bipartisan approach to topics, inquiry, witnesses, questions, etc.
- More follow-up (e.g., hearings) on reports.
- More contract oversight.
- Create oversight plan for a committee, or even full legislature.
- Post status and results of investigations on website.

For additional resources: <https://www.levin-center.org/state-lawmakers/state-oversight-resources/>



South Carolina

House Oversight Committee

- Full Committee plus five subcommittees
- Video archive and minutes of all meetings
- Public input form, plus info on testimony submission
- Restructuring recommendations for agencies
- Seven-year agency reviews



South Carolina

House Oversight Committee

- Transparency report to citizens
 - Purpose, findings, and recommendations
- All reports available online since 2014

Oversight Matters Podcast: Rep. Wes Newton: <https://levin-center.org/what-is-oversight/oversight-matters/>

Oversight Planning

Oversight planning can and should be undertaken at any of these levels:

- Entire legislature
- House/Senate
- Caucus
- Committee
- Investigation



For additional resources: <https://levin-center.org/state-oversight-academy/state-oversight-resources/>

Oversight Plan Example

Topic	Subtopic	Factual Question	Avenue(s)	Routine/Event Driven (Required Resources)
Mental Health and Addiction Treatment	Access	How are juvenile offenders accessing required mental health services?		

Analytic Bureaucracies
 Appropriations
 Committees
 Admin Rule Review
 Advice and Consent
 Monitoring Contracts

Oversight Plan

Topic	Subtopic	Factual Question	Avenue(s)	Routine/ Event Driven (Required Resources)	Timeline
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1. **Education**
2. **Corrections**
3. **Health Care**
4. **Insurance**
5. **More!**

Analytic Bureaucracies
Appropriations Process
Committees
Admin Rule Review
Advice and Consent
Monitoring Contracts



Q&A



State Oversight Academy

Further Resources

- Videos
 - Oversight Overviews
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Thank you!

For more information, contact:

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State Oversight Resources: <https://www.levin-center.org/state-lawmakers/state-oversight-resources/>

State Oversight Workshops: <https://www.levin-center.org/state-lawmakers/oversight-workshops/>

