RISE & RALLY'S BILL PROPOSAL DRAFTING RESEARCH CHECKLIST

Drafting a bill proposal is a complex but rewarding endeavor that can lead to significant legislative changes. Before putting pen to paper, it is crucial to undertake thorough research to ensure your proposal is well-informed, practical, and impactful.

This research not only helps in understanding the issue at hand but also in crafting a proposal that is clear, concise, and backed by solid evidence. Our comprehensive checklist guides you through the essential steps you need to take before drafting your bill proposal.

Additionally, we've included valuable resources under each step to assist you in your research. These resources provide access to databases, legislative histories, statistical data, and more, ensuring you have the tools you need to draft a robust and well-supported bill proposal. You can access the resource by clicking the bolded link.

1. IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

Clearly define the issue you want to address. Understanding the specific problem is crucial for developing a targeted and effective solution.

- **CDC Data & Statistics** provides comprehensive data on various health issues which can be used to gather relevant health-related data.

- **Statista** offers statistical data on a wide range of topics which can be used to find relevant statistics to support your issue.

Gather data and statistics by collecting data that highlight the significance of the problem. Reliable data helps to substantiate the need for legislative action.

- **Pew Research Center** conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, and data-driven social science research. Use it to find reliable data and insights.

- **World Health Organization (WHO) Data** provides global health statistics which can be used to gather international health data to support your proposal.

Collect testimonies or stories by gathering stories from those affected. Personal testimonies can humanize the issue and make a stronger case for your proposal.

- **Jotform.com** helps you create and conduct surveys within your community to gather personal stories and experiences.

- **Change.org** is a platform for public petitions and stories you can use to find personal testimonies and public opinion on related issues.

2. UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT LAWS AND POLICIES

Review existing laws by working to understand current laws related to your issue. This helps to identify what is already in place and what gaps or overlaps exist.

- **Congress.gov** provides information on federal legislation you can use to review existing laws at the federal level.

- **State Legislature Websites Directory** for state-specific legislative websites to use it to find and review existing laws in your state.

Identify Gaps and Limitations by noting where current laws are ineffective. Recognizing these gaps is essential for crafting a bill that addresses unmet needs.

- **Legal Information Institute (LII)** offers legal references and analysis to understand the legal framework and identify gaps in current laws.

3. RESEARCH PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Investigate past bills by looking at previous attempts to address the issue. Learning from past efforts can provide insights into what worked and what didn't.

- **GovTrack.us** tracks federal legislation. Use it to investigate the history of past bills related to your issue.

- **OpenCongress** provides insights into legislative histories you can use it to research previous legislative efforts.

Analyze successes and failures to learn from past legislative efforts. This helps to refine your proposal and avoid repeating past mistakes.

- **Legislative Archives Access** archives for detailed legislative histories.

- **ProQuest Legislative Insight** offers comprehensive legislative histories. Use it to analyze past legislative successes and failures.

4. STUDY SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Look at other states or countries to find similar legislation elsewhere. Comparing your issue with other jurisdictions can provide proven models to follow.

- **NCSL State Legislatures** provides comparative data. Use it to study similar legislation in other states.

- **OECD iLibrary** offers international policy comparisons. Use it to explore similar legislation in other countries.

5. GATHER SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Compile research studies to find studies that support your proposal. Evidence-based proposals are more likely to gain support and be effective.

- **PubMed** is a database of medical and scientific research. Use it to find relevant studies.

- **Google Scholar** is a search engine for academic papers. Use it to access a wide range of scholarly articles.

Ensure credibility and timeliness to use up-to-date and reliable sources. This strengthens the credibility of your proposal.

- **ResearchGate** is a platform for accessing research articles. Use it to find current studies and papers.

6. CONSULT STAKEHOLDERS

Identify key stakeholders by listing out those affected or interested. Engaging stakeholders early can provide valuable insights and build support.

- **Stakeholder Mapping** is a way you can identify and prioritize stakeholders. You can use as a way to help you determine key stakeholders.

Seek input and feedback to get perspectives from stakeholders. Their input can help refine your proposal and address potential concerns.

- **Focus Groups** can be created using the template from typeform.com. You can conduct focus groups for qualitative insights.

- **SurveyMonkey** is an online survey tool. Use it to gather feedback from a larger group.

7. ASSESS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Calculate costs and savings to estimate the financial impact. Understanding the economic implications is critical for feasibility and support.

- **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** provides federal budget impact analysis. Use it to estimate costs at the federal level.

- **State Budget Offices Directory** can be used for state budget information. Use it to estimate state-level financial implications.

8. EVALUATE POTENTIAL OPPONENTS

Identify opponents to know who might oppose your proposal. Anticipating opposition allows you to develop strategies to address their concerns.

- **LobbyView** tracks lobbying efforts which can be used to identify potential opponents.

- **FollowTheMoney.org** provides campaign finance data which you can use to understand financial influences and potential opposition.

Understand their arguments by researching opposition points. Understanding the opposition's perspective helps you to craft a more robust proposal.

- Industry Publications: Sector-specific insights. Use them to understand arguments from industry stakeholders.

- Opposition Websites: Review websites of potential opponents to understand their stance.

9. REVIEW CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL CONSTRAINTS

Ensure compliance to verify that your proposal is legally sound. Ensuring legal compliance prevents challenges that could derail your proposal.

- **American Bar Association** provides legal guidelines and resources which you can use it to ensure your proposal complies with legal standards.

- **National Archives** offers constitutional references which you can use to verify the constitutionality of your proposal.

Consult legal experts to get legal advice if needed. Expert input can help navigate complex legal issues.

- **Free Legal Clinics** are a great way get pro bono legal advice that you can use them for affordable legal consultation.

- **FindLaw** is a resource for legal information and lawyer directories which you can use to find legal experts.

YOU GOT THIS!

For more resources, guides, and opportunities to connect with others who share your passion for advocacy, please visit our website at www.riseandrally.org and follow us on Instagram at @riseandrally_