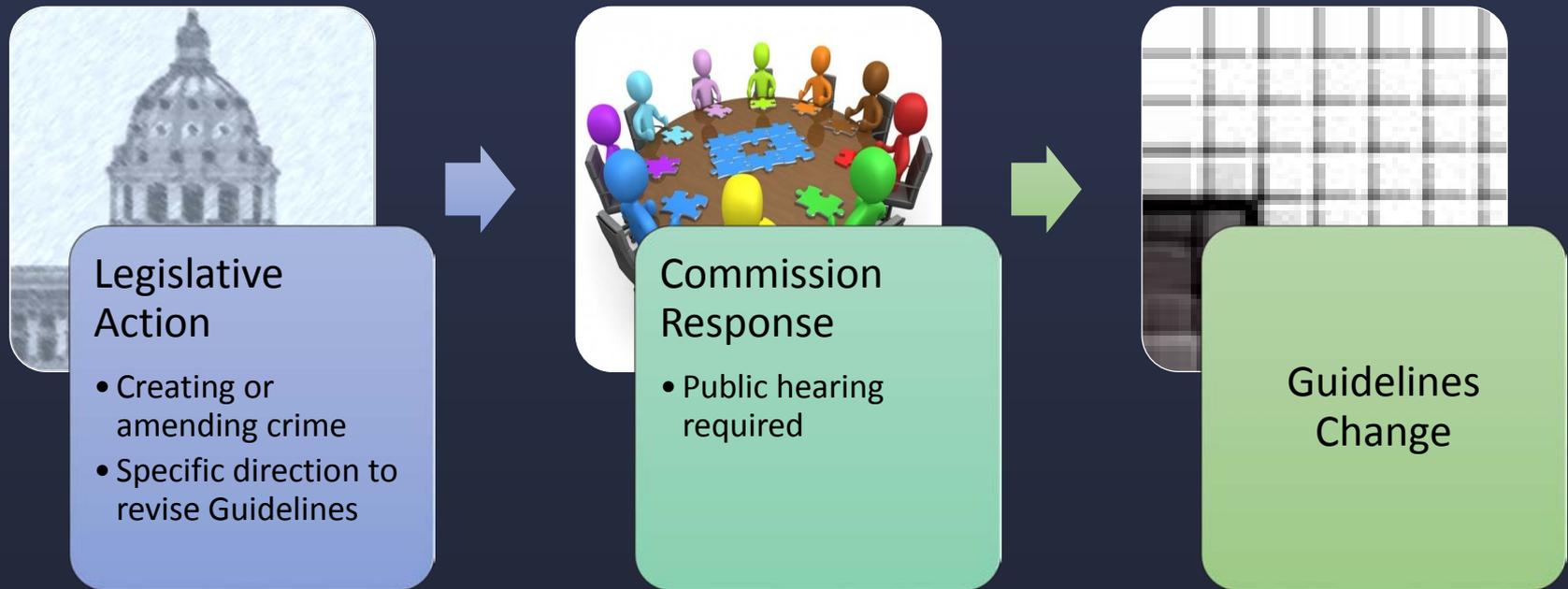


The Commission's Policy Toolbox

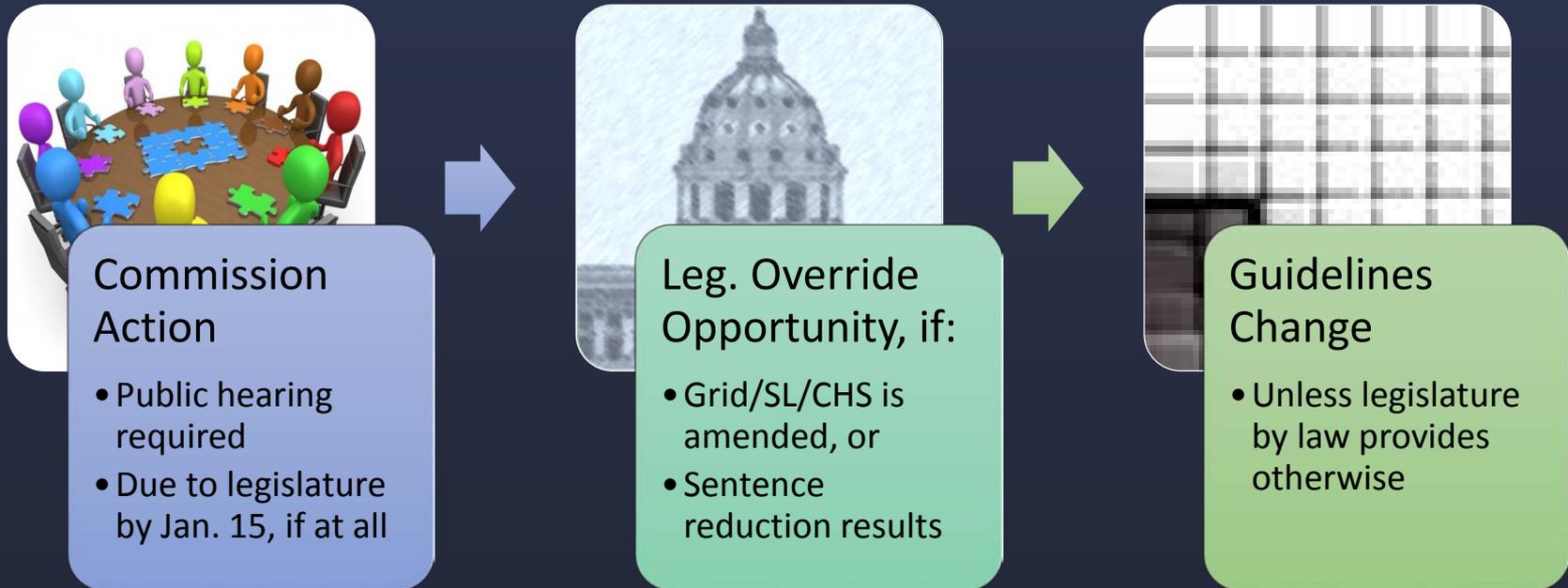
Nate Reitz, Executive Director



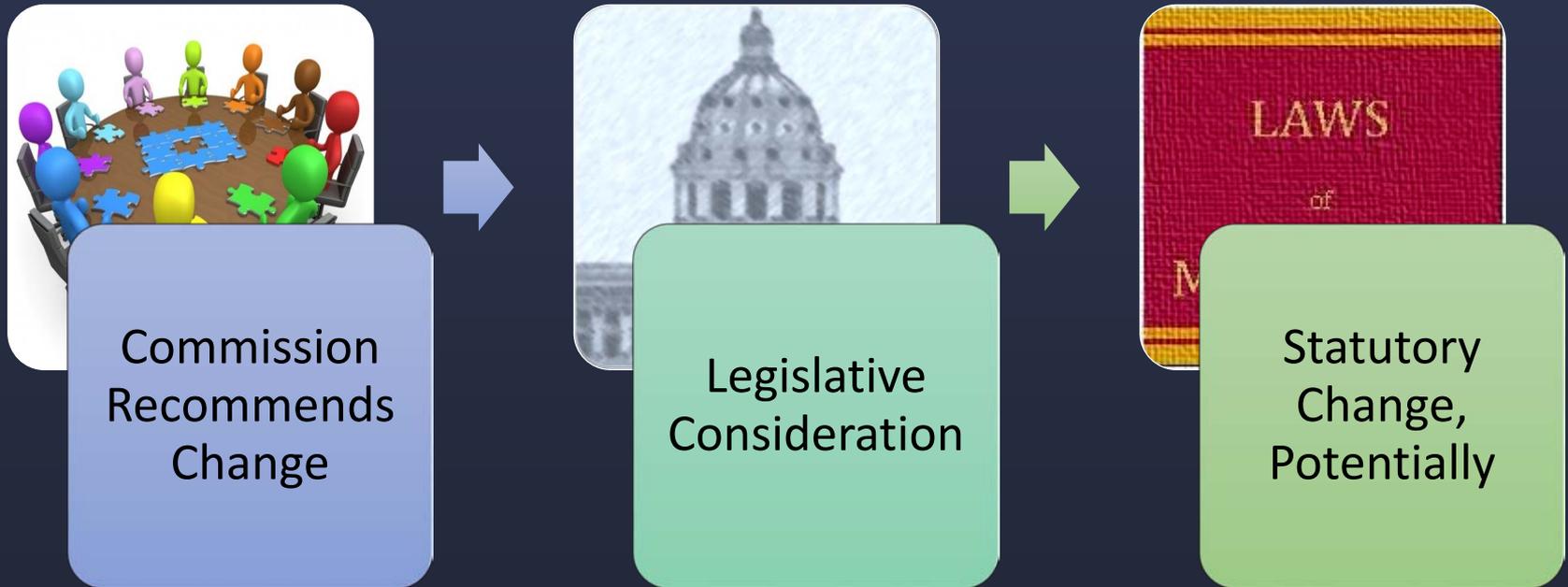
1. Reactive Policy Mode



2. Proactive Policy Mode



3. Advisory Policy Mode



Legislative Requests for Advice

General:

- 1978 enabling statute:
“The commission shall from time to time make recommendations to the legislature regarding changes in the Criminal Code, criminal procedures, and other aspects of sentencing.”

Specific:

- 2007: Propose changed rankings for controlled substance offenses
- 2003: Make recommendations regarding drug offender sentencing issues
- 1997: Study the advisability of allowing a plea agreement to be used a reason for a departure from a presumptive sentence



Four Policy Questions

Is it time to get out the tools?



1. Do you see a problem?

Racial
disparity

Rising state
incarceration
rate

Mandatory
Minimums

Issue inherent
to MSGC
charter or
structure

Guidelines
too severe

No, I don't see a
problem.

Guidelines
too lenient

Geographical
disparity

Issue inherent
to Guidelines
purpose or
structure

High
departure
rates

Drug
thresholds

Prison system
at/over
capacity

2. If so, what do you see as the solution?

Present findings to legislature

Subdivide offenses

Expand scope of Guidelines

Recommend specific law changes

No idea/need more info

Simplify Guidelines

Not MSGC's role to solve/
political issue

Make general changes to Guidelines

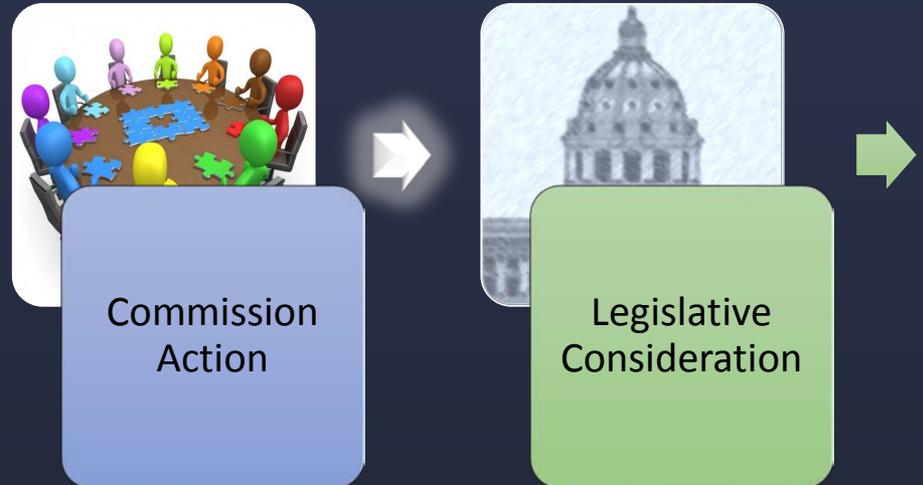
Rerank offenses

3. What do you want to be on the agenda in the next year?



4. What would you like to see in the January Report to the Legislature?

- The report is the usual means of communication with the Legislature
- Key to both proactive and advisory policy modes
 - Changes to Guidelines
 - Advice to Legislature



1. Do you see a problem?

2. If so, what do you see as the solution?

3. What do you want to be on the agenda in the next year?

4. What would you like to see in the January Report to the Legislature?