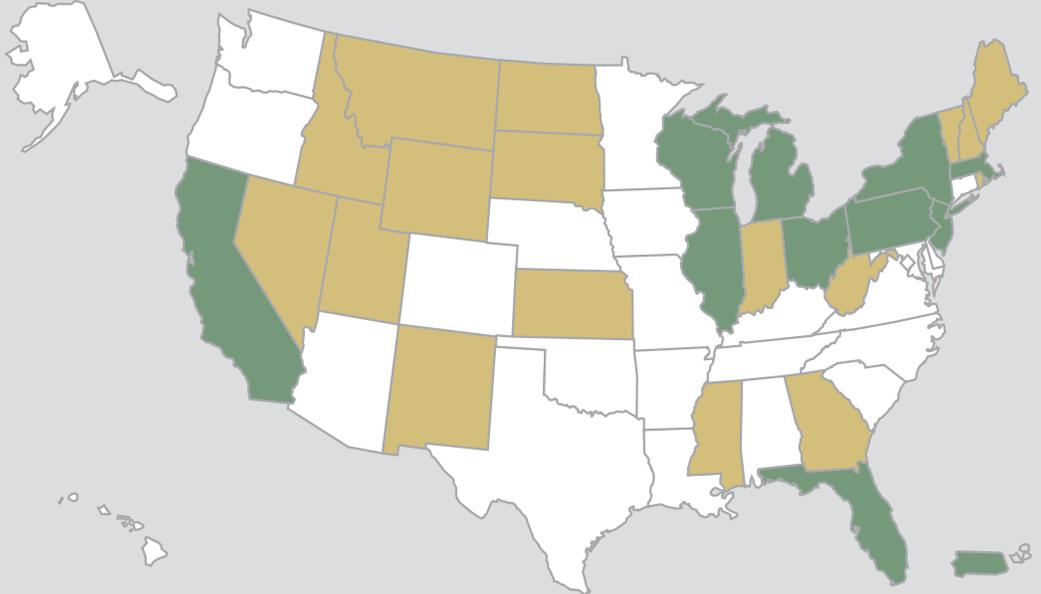


Legislatures: All Over the Map

As most of the country's 7,383 state lawmakers prepare to dive into session, it's interesting to note the diversity among full- and part-time legislatures. But it's a bit tricky to define the criteria. No matter the length of sessions, state lawmakers' work is full time. When not in regular session, legislators are assisting constituents, doing interim committee work, studying up on issues, campaigning, giving speeches, attending luncheons, returning phone calls and even riding in parades.

Nevertheless, NCSL has grouped the 50 state legislatures into three major categories: Green, White and Gold. Green legislatures tend to be in states with larger populations and are the most full-time, with longer sessions, bigger districts, larger staffs and higher salaries. White legislatures are hybrids, representing states in the middle of the population range, where lawmakers typically spend about two-thirds of a full-time job in their legislative roles and earn less money than their counterparts in green states. Gold state legislatures are in less populated, more rural states and are often called traditional or citizen legislatures. Lawmakers in gold states tend to work part time, have few if any personal staff, and generally require other sources of income.

—Karl Kurtz and Brenda Erickson



Trivial Pursuit

- ◆ New Hampshire's 400-member House is the largest state chamber in the country and pays members the least amount per year, \$100.
- ◆ California legislators earn the most per year, \$95,291.
- ◆ Forty-nine states and three territories (American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico) have bicameral legislatures—which include an upper and lower chamber.
- ◆ Nebraska, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands are unicameral, having only one chamber.
- ◆ Nebraska and American Samoa are the only nonpartisan legislatures in the country.
- ◆ The number of legislative seats nationwide increased by one—to 7,383—after the November election. Which state added a seat? Find the answer at www.ncsl.org/magazine.

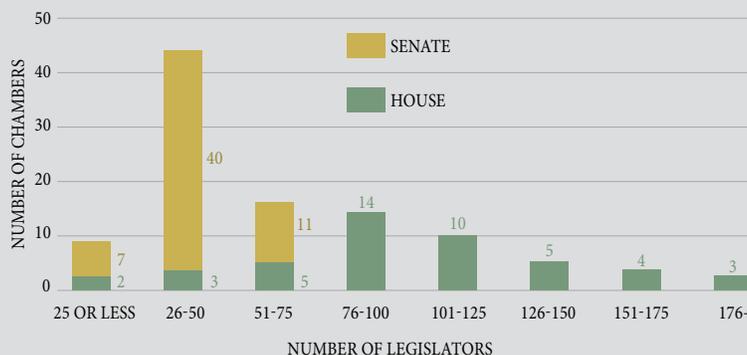
SL ONLINE

To learn more about the make-up of state legislatures, go to www.ncsl.org/magazine.

Time Spent on the Job	Average Annual Compensation	Average Staff per Member
80%	\$68,599	8.9
70%	\$35,326	3.1
54%	\$15,984	1.2

Note: The portion of a full-time job spent on legislative work includes time in session, constituent service, interim committee work and election campaigns. The estimated compensation includes salary, per diem and unvouchered expense payments. And the ratio of all staff to all legislators does not indicate how many staff work directly for each legislator.

Number of Legislators per Chamber



Note: Includes states and territories, but not unicameral legislatures.

What's in a Name?

Official titles of lawmaking bodies

The Body

Legislature	31
General Assembly	19
Legislative Assembly	3
General Court	2
Council	1

Upper chamber

Senate	52
Legislature	3
Council	1

Lower chamber

House of Representatives	44
Assembly	4
House of Delegates	3
General Assembly	1

Note: Names include territories and District of Columbia.