
Virginia General Assembly

— Structure and Representatives —

Structure

- Bicameral Structure
 - Senate and House of Delegates
- Assembly is in session for 60 days in even-numbered years
- Assembly is usually in session for 46 day in odd-numbered years
- Sessions can be extend for a maximum of an additional 30 days
- The Governor can call a Special Session



<https://sgr.virginia.edu/key-dates-2020-general-assembly-session>

Senate

- 40 Senators-elected every four years
 - Each senator represents roughly 200,000 citizens
- Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate
 - Lieutenant Governor is elected for a 4 year term
- President Pro Tempore carries out duties of the Lieutenant Governor if Lieutenant Governor is not present
- Each major party elects a floor leader to represent them (majority leader and minority leader)
- Senate is composed of lawyers, educators, and business executives
- 21 Democrats and 19 Republicans
- 10 committees (also a Committee on Rules)

House of Delegates

- 100 Delegates-elected every two years
 - Each member represents roughly 80,000 citizens
- Speaker of the House presides over the House
 - Speaker is elected every two years
- House of Delegates is composed of business executives, attorneys, educators, and farmers
- A Majority Leader and Minority Leader are elected by their respective caucuses
- 45 Republicans and 55 Democrats
- 14 committees

Qualifications

- To serve in the Senate or House of Delegates one must be 21 years old and must have lived in Virginia for at least one year

Powers of the General Assembly

- Represent citizens in the creation of public policy
- Enact laws
 - As long as the laws created are not prohibited either by the federal constitution or the Virginia state constitution
- Levy taxes
- Confirm the appointments made by the Governor of individuals to state agency heads and board members
- Elect judges
 - State Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals, Circuit and District Court Judges (as well as the members of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission)
- The General Assembly can also elect the members of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, the auditor of Public Accounts, and the commissioners of the State Corporation Commission
- Approve the biannual state budget

Charlottesville Representatives

State Delegate: Sally Hudson (D), 57th District



State Senator: Creigh Deeds (D), 25th District



Who Is Your Legislator?

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov>

Virginia Calendar and Key Dates

http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2020_2.pdf

http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2021_1.pdf

<https://sgr.virginia.edu/key-dates-2020-general-assembly-session>