

The Berlin Parliament

The Berlin House of Representatives



Abgeordnetenhaus **BERLIN**





In the heart of Berlin

The House of Representatives of Berlin, located directly on the line of the former Berlin Wall, now once again lies in the centre of the reunified city. Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror, and the Bundesrat, it represents a dramatic contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.


Contact

House of Representatives of Berlin/
Abgeordnetenhaus von Berlin
Niederkirchnerstraße 5
10117 Berlin
Phone: 030 / 2325-1060
Fax: 030 / 2325-2068
www.parlament-berlin.de

Public transportation

 Anhalter Bahnhof
  Bahnhof Potsdamer Platz
 M 29, M 41, M 48, M 85, 200

Opening hours

Monday – Friday 9.00 – 18.00 Uhr
 Our building is barrier-free.



Dear Guests,



Ralf Wieland, President of the
Berlin House of Representatives

The Berlin House of Representatives is the most crucial political site in this city, and is where many vital decisions are made for all Berliners. And its doors are open. I am therefore particularly pleased to be able to welcome you to the meeting room of the Berlin State Parliament, where the former Prussian Landtag was located.

I hope you will have the chance to take a guided tour through our House of Representatives, or perhaps even a seat as a visitor in the public plenary or committee meetings. Travel through time in our permanent exhibition, taking in the social and political development of Berlin from the mid-19th century up to the present day. Our website also offers a vast array of information. And, last but not least, why not come and speak to your parliamentarians.

Yours,

R. Wieland

The home of history

The Prussian state parliament building, now the seat of the Berlin House of Representatives, was often the scene of clashes between democracy and dictatorship.

1899 Inauguration of the building as the home of the second chamber of the Prussian Landtag, designed and built by the architect Friedrich Schulze.

1918 End of World War I: the monarchy is abolished. The first Reichsrätekongress meets in the House of Representatives and paves the way for parliamentary democracy as Germany's future form of government. The far left responds by founding the German Communist Party (KPD) in the state parliament's grand hall.

1919–33 Weimar Republic. As early as 1932, the "Preussenschlag," in which Germany's chancellor dismissed the Prussian state government, brings an abrupt end to Prussia's democratic era.

1933 The last state parliament elections were rigged. The National Socialists emerge as the strongest party.

May 1933 The prussian state parliament meets for the last time.

1934 Once the Prussian state parliament has been dissolved for good, the building becomes part of the "Preussenhaus" foundation. The infamous People's Court is established in the plenary chamber in June 1934.

1936–45 The former Prussian state parliament is used as an officers' club after Hermann Göring has the building converted into an "aviators' house."



The opening session of the Reichsrätekongress in the plenary chamber in 1918

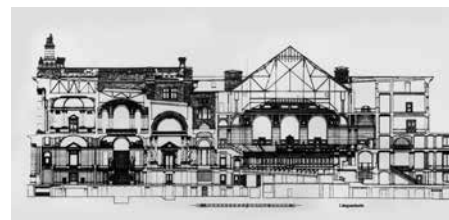
1945 The building is severely damaged shortly before the end of the war.

1949–53 After being restored on the orders of the Soviet military administration, the building becomes the seat of the first government of the GDR.

1960 The parliament building is remodelled to become the permanent seat of the State Planning Commission. The Ministry of State Security (Stasi) uses the building as a listening post.

1990 Shortly after reunification, the House of Representatives passes a unanimous resolution to relocate its seat to the former Prussian Landtag building.

1993 Renovation is completed in record time, and the president of the House of Representatives, Dr. Hanna-Renate Laurien, opens the first session in the new location.



The architect Friedrich Schulze designed the House of Representatives in the style of the Italian High Renaissance.

View from around 1900



Demonstration in 1918



Conversion to the "aviators' house"



1936

Open-plan office / GDR Berlin Wall



Ground-breaking ceremony in 1991



The President, the Presidium, and the Council of Elders

The president directs and coordinates the work of the House of Representatives, assisted by the presidium and the Council of Elders, which he or she chairs

The parliament must convene for its constituent meeting, chaired by its oldest member, no later than six weeks after an election, in order to elect its president, its vice-presidents and the additional members of the presidium, and to lay down its rules of procedure.

The **president** of the House of Representatives occupies a special position; with regard to protocol, he or she holds Berlin's highest office. The president has the following responsibilities:

- Swear the governing mayor and the senators into office,
- Oversee the business of the House of Representatives,
- Exercise proprietary and police powers over the building where the parliament holds its sessions,
- Represent the parliament,
- Convene and chair meetings of the House of Representatives,
- Review all of the bills and interpellations intended for the parliament,
- Sign laws that have been passed, and,
- Head the parliament's administration.



Vice President
Cornelia Seibeld (CDU)



Vice President
Dr. Manuela Schmidt (The Left Party)



President Ralf Wieland (SPD) leads the Plenary Session

Along with the president, the **presidium** is comprised of two vice-presidents and a number of supporting members, who are elected on the recommendation of the parliamentary groups in the House of Representatives. The presidium rules on all internal matters pertaining to the House of Representatives, except those decisions reserved for the president.

The **Council of Elders** assists the president in conducting the business of parliament, especially the preparations for plenary meetings.

The Council, which includes the president and his or her deputies, is not necessarily composed of the oldest members of parliament, but of members of the executive committees of the parliamentary groups and those with many years of experience.

The Council of Elders meets every Tuesday before a plenary session. It does not have the power to pass resolutions; rather, it makes recommendations to the plenary assembly. However, since these proposals are drafted with the involvement of the parliamentary groups' representatives, they are usually approved by the parliament.

The Council of Elders also functions as a mediator between the parliamentary groups, working to achieve agreement and compromise when conflicts arise.

The plenary assembly

The plenary assembly or session is a general meeting of all the members of the parliament, i.e., all those who have been elected to the House of Representatives

As a rule, plenary sessions take place every other Thursday. They usually begin at 10:00 a.m., although the parliament convenes earlier when Berlin's state budget is on the agenda. The parliament's key tasks include legislation, approving the budget, and electing and overseeing the state government (senate). These are accomplished largely by the plenary assembly.

The opening of the plenary assembly by the president is usually followed by a debate on a **subject of current general interest**. The parliamentary groups or a group of at least ten members of parliament can propose topics for this debate. If there is a choice of several topics, a vote is taken at the beginning of the session.



Plenary sessions are open to visitors. Please register with our Visitors' Service (Besucherdienst) by telephone on +49-(0)30 / 2325-1064 or online at www.parlamentberlin.de (under "Service").

This debate is followed by question time, during which members of parliament may ask the Senate **spontaneous questions** that do not have to be submitted in advance in writing. The question must be asked without a long preliminary explanation; it must be concise, of general interest, and allow for a concise response. Question time is followed by the priority issues that the parliamentary groups have chosen to emphasize during the day's session.

First or **second** readings of bills or legislation introduced either by the government or the parliament take place afterwards. Bills come from the government, whereas legislation is submitted by the parliament.

The parliament uses **motions** as a means to induce Berlin's government (the Berlin Senate) to take action on particular issues. The Senate can also submit **items of business** for a vote when it believes there is a need for a decision on an issue. These submissions are discussed in committees and then voted on by the plenary assembly.

Budget debates are of primary importance. After weeks of discussion in the specialist committees and the budget committee, the plenary assembly debates and passes the budget drafted by the Senate.



The session can be followed online via the "live ticker" on the webcam at www.parlament-berlin.de.

The members of the parliament

The Constitution of Berlin gives the House of Representatives – the legislative branch – strong powers with regard to the Senate – the executive – in order to ensure that the rule of law is upheld

The members of the Berlin parliament view themselves as “part-time legislators” and often continue pursuing their original professions. Due to the members’ increasing workload within the parliament, however, the number of full-time legislators continues to grow. Certain public service positions are incompatible with a parliamentary seat and must be given up for as long as the member holds the seat.

The legislators’ most important **tasks** are:

- Electing the parliamentary president,
- Legislation for the federal state of Berlin,
- Adopting the budget law,
- Supervising the government,
- Appointing the presidents of the highest state courts, the justices of the Constitutional Court, the president of the Court of Auditors, and the Commissioner for Data Protection.



The members have various instruments at their disposal that, in particular, help them with the task of overseeing the government:

- Interpellations, which every member of the parliament may address in writing to the Senate,
- Spontaneous questions asked in the plenary assembly,
- The work done in the committees.



The Constitution of Berlin emphasizes the importance of the **autonomy** of the House of Representatives through protective rights such as

- Immunity (criminal prosecution is permitted only with the parliament’s consent),
- Indemnity (no prosecution for statements made or votes cast in the exercise of one’s office), and
- the members’ right to refuse to give evidence.

The parliament’s members receive **compensation** for their work in order to ensure their independence. Without this parliamentary pay, only the wealthy or people with high incomes could afford to hold office.

The election, the status, and the rights and obligations of members of the House of Representatives are treated in detail in legislation: the Constitution of Berlin, the state election law, and the state law on members of the House of Representatives. The rules of procedure of the House of Representatives address additional regulations.

The parliamentary groups

The parliamentary groups are the political “backbone” of the parliament – they make efficient legislative work possible

FORMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Since the parliament deals with so many policy areas, having to develop expertise in all of them would overwhelm the individual members. Those who belong to the same party thus join forces as a parliamentary group (called a “Fraktion” – a part of a whole). These groups must consist of at least the number of members required by law; this number and all other legal requirements are determined by the parliament’s rules of procedure and the law on parliamentary groups.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Members of each parliamentary group are elected by their peers to serve as the group’s executive committee: the chair, deputy chair, and secretary. The executive committee is responsible for organizing and setting the agenda for parliamentary group meetings.

WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

The parliamentary group sets the general direction for a given party’s parliamentary work, launches political initiatives, and drafts the motions and bills to be submitted to the legislature. The various positions on upcoming issues are discussed during the parliamentary group meetings before a group resolution determines the stance that will be taken for the group by the spokesperson responsible for the policy area in question. The parliamentary groups’ representatives are a permanent channel for communication with the presidium, the Council of Elders and the committees, as well as with groups and institutions outside the legislature.



160 representatives, 2 independent representatives

CONSTITUTION OF BERLIN, ARTICLE 40

- (1) “An association of at least five percent of the minimum number of representatives laid down in the Constitution shall constitute a parliamentary group. Details shall be subject to the Rules of Procedure.”
- (2) “The parliamentary groups shall carry out constitutional responsibilities by directly using their own rights and responsibilities as independent and autonomous bodies of Parliament in cooperation with Parliament, and in helping form the will of Parliament. They shall be entitled to adequate resources in this respect. Details concerning the legal position and organization, as well as the rights and responsibilities, of parliamentary groups shall be subject to law.”

THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPD
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 spd-fraktion@spd.parlament-berlin.de
 www.spdfraktion-berlin.de
 Chair: Raed Saleh

CDU
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 www.cdu-fraktion.berlin.de
 Chair: Florian Graf

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 kontakt@linksfraktionberlin.de
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 Chair:
 Carola Bluhm und Udo Wolf

Alliance 90 / The Green Party
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 gruene@gruene-fraktionberlin.de
 www.gruene-fraktionberlin.de
 Chair:
 Antje Kapek und Silke Gebel

AfD Party
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 Chair: Georg Pazderski

FDP
 Phone: +49 (0) 30 / 2325-2322
 info@fdp-fraktion.berlin
 www.fdp-fraktion.berlin
 Chair: Sebastian Czaja

Committees

Committee deliberations form the “core” of the parliament’s work, since this is where the actual preparatory work is done

As a rule, the parliament sets up a permanent committee for each of the Senate’s areas of responsibility. The parliamentary groups appoint members with particular expertise in that area to the individual committees. Committee members debate the bills submitted by either the Senate or the parliament and referred to their committee by the plenary assembly. The committee reports to the plenary assembly with a recommendation for a decision on each item it has been asked to consider. However, the committee may also address issues within its area of responsibility on its own initiative.

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Permanent Committees of the Berlin House of Representatives

Committee on Education, Youth and Family

Committee on Active Citizenship

Committee on European and Federal Affairs and Media Policy

Committee on Health, Social Services and Equality

Committee on the Interior, Security and Public Order

Committee on Integration, Labour and Social Affairs

Committee on Communication Technology and Data Protection

Committee on Cultural Affairs

Committee on Sports

Committee on Urban Development and Living

Committee on the Environment, Transport, Climate Protection

Committee on the Protection of the Constitution

Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Rules of Procedure, Consumer Protection, Anti-discrimination

Committee on Agriculture, Energy, Operations

Committee on Science and Research

Main Committee

“Investment Management and Control” Subcommittee

“Boroughs” Subcommittee

“Budgetary Control” Subcommittee

“Product Accounting, Personnel Management, Property Administration” Subcommittee

“Asset Management” Subcommittee

Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee is an “advocate for citizens’ concerns.” Anyone who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly by some part of Berlin’s administration can file a complaint – also online – with the Petitions Committee with little formality. The Petitions Committee, which consists of 11 members from all of the parliamentary groups, will then investigate the charges. It has the right to monitor the activity of Berlin’s state agencies and institutions. The Petition Committee of the House of Representatives is available to all residents of Berlin. Telephone: +49-(0)30 / 2325- 1476. The form to submit a **complaint online** can be found at www.parlament-berlin.de.



Inquiry committees

The House of Representatives can establish a temporary committee of inquiry to investigate problems, situations in dispute, or political scandals

A committee of inquiry is set up to deal with just one particular subject of investigation. It is usually the opposition that petitions for the use of this powerful tool in cases of political conflict, with the aim of resolving problems or monitoring the actions of the government in this area.

The parliament chooses a committee chair and the other members of the committee, as well as their alternates. All of the parliamentary groups must be represented on the committee by at least one member.

The committee can call witnesses and experts and request state government files.

With certain exceptions, the meetings of committees of inquiry are open to the public.

The committee is required to present its findings to the House of Representatives in a final report and/or interim reports.

“The House of Representatives shall have the right and, upon a motion by one-quarter of its members, the duty to set up a committee of investigation.”

(Constitution of Berlin, Article 48, paragraph 1).

Study commissions

Study commissions explore future developments in society

The parliament sets up study commissions in order to learn more before making major decisions affecting a particular policy or social area.

A fourth of the parliament’s members can also unite in calling for a study commission to be convened. The commission’s task is to identify social changes and trends so the parliament can respond to these in its own initiatives. The parliament can appoint both its own members and experts outside the House of Representatives to sit on this commission. The study commission concludes its work with a final report submitted to the parliament. In the 17th legislative period (and probably until the fall of 2015), a study commission is investigating the issue of “The future of energy in Berlin.”



Elections to the Berlin House of Representatives

Berlin's constitution calls for elections every five years, in which eligible voters elect a new state parliament in accordance with the principle of parliamentary democracy

Who can vote for the parliament? German citizens aged 18 and over who have their primary residence in Berlin are entitled to vote.

Who can run for office? Parties or voters' associations permitted to participate in the election choose their candidates by means of an internal nominating process.

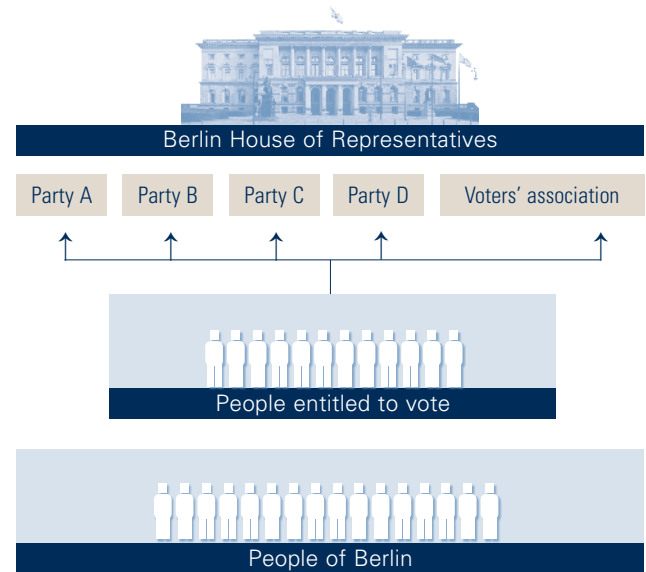
Each party can designate one candidate for each electoral district. Independent candidates are also free to run for election.

State or borough list? Berlin's constitution lets parties nominate their candidates for either a state party list or a borough party list. Borough party lists make it possible for party organizations on the borough level to participate directly in the nomination of candidates.

First and second votes: Everyone voting in an election for the House of Representatives has two votes. The first is for one of the district candidates.

According to the **first-past-the-post** principle, the candidate receiving the most first votes in his or her electoral district gets that district's direct seat. Voters use their second vote to support the party they prefer. Through **proportional representation**, second votes determine the size of the various parliamentary groups in the House of Representatives. The two votes can be cast for different parties or candidates ("vote-splitting").

THE VOTING SYSTEM IN BERLIN



Number of seats: The constitution prescribes a minimum of 130 seats. However, more representatives are usually elected: if, as a result of first votes, a party ends up with more direct seats than it is entitled to on the basis of second votes, it may keep these **"overhang" seats**. The other parties are then given **compensatory seats** to ensure that the number of each parliamentary group's seats is in line with its share of second votes.

"The representatives shall be elected in general, equal, secret, and direct elections."

(Constitution of Berlin, Article 39, paragraph 1).



How elections are conducted

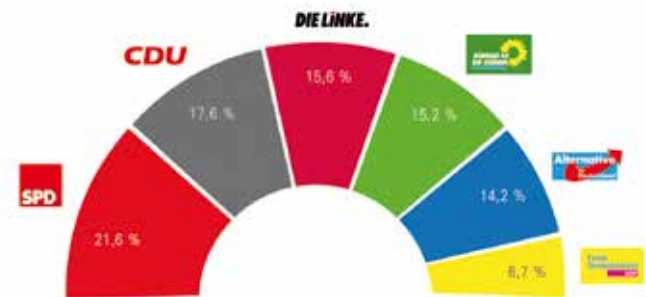
Representatives are elected directly by secret ballot in general elections in which each vote carries the same weight

Elections for the Berlin House of Representatives are de-centralized. The many volunteers working in the polling stations on election day help to ensure that the election runs smoothly. For example, voter lists are double-checked to verify that each voter is actually registered in that district. Only then does he or she receive an official ballot, to be filled out alone – as a “secret ballot” – in the voting booth.

Since the borough assembly members are elected at the same time as the House of Representatives, election results are first recorded by the boroughs before being given to the state election officer, who then officially announces the outcome of the election for the House of Representatives.

In order to ensure that election results accurately reflect the will of the voters, all unclear ballots are evaluated after the election by borough election committees to determine their validity.

In 2016, the people of Berlin were able to cast their votes at one of 1,779 regular polling stations and 653 polling stations for absentee voters.



Election results for the last two elections are available at www.wahlen-berlin.de.

The outcome of the 2016 elections for the Berlin House of Representatives (second votes). Here you see the percentage of votes received by each party elected to the House of Representatives.

The Governing Mayor

The Governing Mayor heads the Senate, Berlin's state government



Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin since December 2014

Once the parliament has been constituted, the top candidate of the party that won the election is usually elected by secret ballot to the office of governing mayor. The parliament elects the governing mayor with a majority of the representatives. After this, the governing mayor forms the Senate.

The Governing Mayor

- represents Berlin,
- appoints and removes members of the Senate,
- proposes the number and scope of departments,
- works with the Senate to determine the direction of government policy, and monitors adherence to this,
- chairs the Senate, casts the deciding vote when a Senate vote ends in a tie, and
- promulgates laws in the "Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt für Berlin" (Berlin gazette of laws and ordinances).

More detailed information on Berlin's Senate Chancellery and Senate Departments can be found at: www.berlin.de

THE SENATE CHANCELLERY AND THE EIGHT SENATE DEPARTMENTS OF THE FEDERAL STATE OF BERLIN IN THE 18TH LEGISLATIVE TERM

The Governing Mayor of Berlin – incl. Science and Research	Senate for Education, Youth and Family	Senate for Finance	Senate for Health, Social Services and Equality	Senate for the Interior and Sport	Senate for Integration, Labour and Social Affairs
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The Berlin Senate

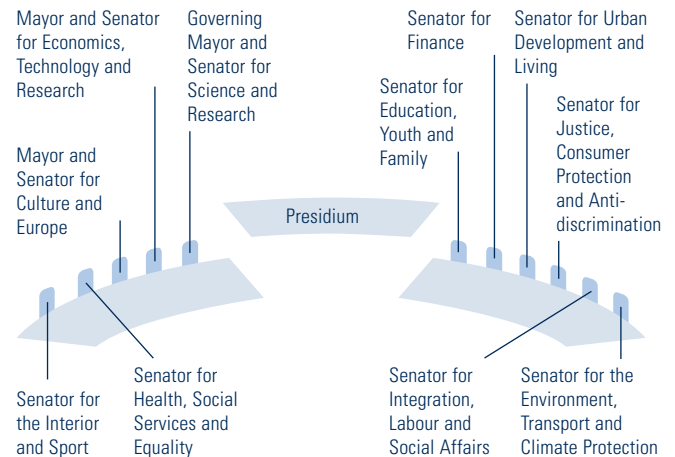


The government of the federal state of Berlin is the Senate, consisting of the Governing Mayor and ten Senators

At the beginning of the legislative term, the governing mayor forms a Senate (equivalent to a cabinet). Each senator (up to a total of ten) is appointed by the governing mayor; two of these are also his/ her deputies (mayors). The senators do not have to be members of the parliament; the governing mayor is free to nominate candidates from outside the House of Representatives.

The Senate meets every Tuesday at the Berlin Town Hall, making its decisions public in the press conference that follows.

GOVERNMENT BENCH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Senate for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-discrimination	Senate for Culture and Europe	Senate for Urban Development and Living	Senate for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection	Senate for Economics, Technology and Research
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How are laws made?

Berlin's constitution stipulates that new laws may be proposed by the Senate, the House of Representatives, or the public

DRAFT LAWS

Draft laws, or bills – whether from the government or the parliament – are submitted to the president of the House of Representatives.

AGENDA

Once the president has received a bill, the Council of Elders puts it on the agenda of one of the next few plenary meetings. The members receive a printed copy of this legislative proposal at least two days before the meeting.

FIRST READING

In general, the legislature restricts itself to a discussion of basic issues in its first reading of a bill.

REFERRAL TO A COMMITTEE

After the first reading, the bill is referred to the relevant committee for further deliberation, and the budget committee examines its potential financial consequences. The plenary assembly then receives a recommendation for a decision.

THE STAGES OF A NEW LAW, FROM DRAFT UP TO

Draft laws Agenda First reading Committee



SECOND READING

Every bill must be given at least two readings; in special cases, the president or the Senate may request a third reading. The second reading is used to consider the individual sections and articles. Following deliberations, a vote is taken on each clause.

VOTING/DRAWING UP

Once the voting on individual clauses has been concluded, a final vote is taken on the bill as a whole, which is adopted by a simple majority vote. Laws amending the constitution, however, require a two-thirds majority. The law must be signed by the president as soon as possible (i.e., without intentional delay).

PROMULGATION/ENTRY INTO FORCE

The law is promulgated within two weeks by the governing mayor in the "Berlin Gazette of Laws and Ordinances." If the law itself does not stipulate the date on which it is to take effect, it will automatically enter into force 14 days after being promulgated.

"Petitions for a referendum may be aimed at making, amending, or rescinding laws as long as the legislative competence lies with the federal state of Berlin"

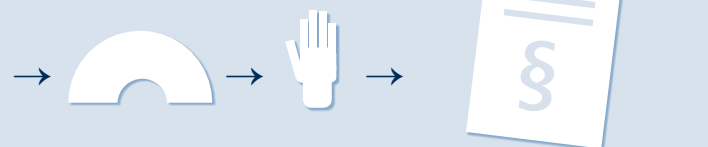
(Constitution of Berlin, Article 62, paragraph 1).



Laws are voted on with a show of hands

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Second reading Vote Promulgation/entry into force



The administration

156 employees ensure that the parliament runs smoothly.

Their tasks range from managing the large building, to ensuring safety, right through to preparing for and providing administration following meetings of the various bodies, committees and the plenary.

The parliament's administration is headed by the president, who is represented in this capacity by the **director of the House of Representatives**. The director is the permanent representative of the president in the administration.

In addition to the presidential area, which covers the **media, public relations** and **protocol**, the management of the parliament is divided into three parts.

General Administration (Directorate 1) is responsible for executing the state law, the law on parliamentary groups and the budget for the House of Representatives. Personnel matters, construction, data processing, organisational issues as well as the management of the building, technical service and the order of service also fall into the services of this directorate.

The **Scientific Parliamentary Service (WPD, Directorate II)** is tasked with supporting the House of Representatives, the president and bodies with legal matters. This primarily takes the form of the creation of legal reports, which are often requested within the legislative processes of political groups or parliamentary committees. The president is responsible for commissioning these reports. Such requests may come from the plenary, a group or a committee.

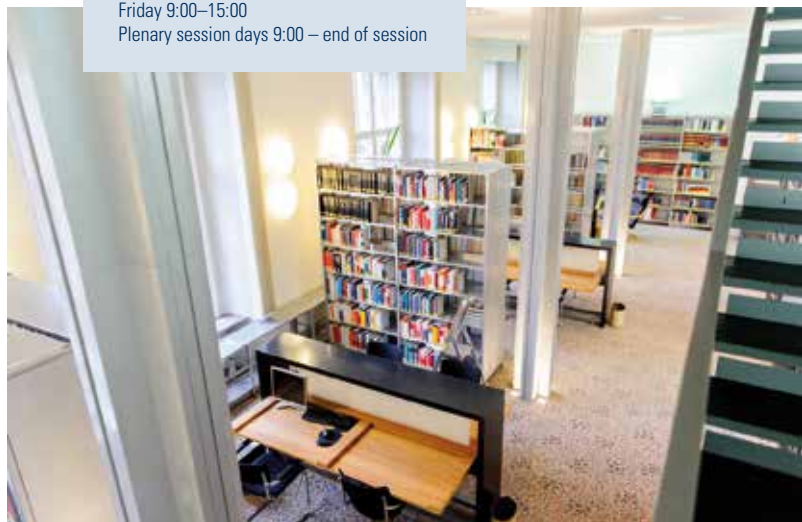
Refer to www.parlament-berlin.de > Parliament > Administration for further information

This directorate also includes the **parliamentary library** and the **office for the documentation of parliamentary papers**. These facilities are also open to the public.

Plenary Assembly and Committee Services (Directorate III) provides support services to the plenary assembly and the committees. This directorate also includes the Plenary and Committee Transcript Division, which takes the minutes of the various meetings.

The protocol, media, and public relations divisions report to the president's office. The **Protocol Division** is responsible, among other things, for planning and holding events and receptions hosted by the House of Representatives. The **Media Division** acts as a liaison for the print media, radio, and television. It issues the president's statements and the press information service, as well as other materials. The press office is responsible for interacting with the media and handling press inquiries, the accreditation of media representatives and the publication of press releases, as well as for the daily state press release. The **Public Relations Division** publishes informational brochures on the House of Representatives, and organizes events and the various exhibitions held by the president. The **Visitors' Service** (see page 28) falls under the auspices of the Public Relations Division.

The library in the House of Representatives
Phone +49 (0)30 / 2325-1256
Opening hours:
Monday–Thursday 9:00–16:00
Friday 9:00–15:00
Plenary session days 9:00 – end of session



Art in the parliament

Art and politics converge on many levels in the Berlin House of Representatives

Art plays an important role in defining the appearance of the parliament building – whether in the form of temporary exhibitions or in the gallery, where portraits of Berlin's honorary citizens are permanently on display.



GALLERY OF HONORARY CITIZENS

Since 1808, the city of Berlin has bestowed the title of “honorary citizen” on individuals who have rendered outstanding services to the city. The portraits of some of these 116 men and women are displayed in the corridors to the right and left of the plenary chamber. The honorary citizens themselves choose the artists who will be creating their portraits.



GRAND HALL

A competition with the theme of “Kunst-am-Bau” (Art and Construction) was held to choose the artist who would be responsible for the artistic design of the Grand Hall. Gerhard Richter won the competition, and his five abstract panels, entitled “Rot, Blau, Grün” (Red, Blue, Green), were placed in the sections of the north wall.



GALLERY ON THE THIRD FLOOR

The works of the artist Karl Horst Hoedicke, “Nur in der City lärmten und klagten die Musen” (Only in the city do the muses clamour and lament), which came second in the competition, so impressed the jury that they were put on display as a permanent loan in the gallery on the third floor. Opposite these are sandstone pedestals supporting bronze heads.

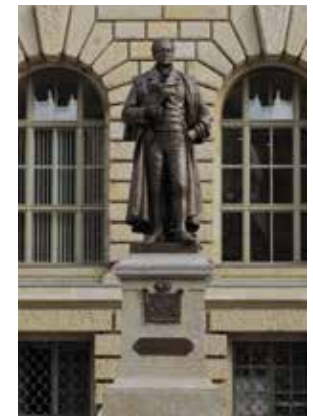


CASINO

The Berlin painter Matthias Koeppel captured the historic fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 in the form of a triptych illustrating three consecutive scenes based on the many sketches he had made of this event himself.

IN FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Along with Freiherr vom und zum Stein, Karl August Fürst von Hardenberg is considered the father of the modern Prussian constitution. They campaigned for the participation of all citizens in the shaping of the state and introduced self-administration with the city ordinance of 1808.



Visitors' Service

The Visitors' Service is responsible for making the parliament's work accessible and understandable to the public



TOURS

The Visitors' Service offers tours of the House of Representatives for groups of at least ten people, as well as school groups, free of charge. These tours are arranged individually with the Visitors' Service and, given adequate notice, can also be conducted in languages other than

German. During the approximately one-hour tour, the staff of the Visitors' Service explains the history, the architecture, and the functioning of the building.

POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS

On request, the Visitors' Service can arrange meetings with members of any parliamentary group.

AN "OPEN" HOUSE WITH HISTORY

A permanent exhibition in the foyer of the house not only provides an overview of the historical events that have occurred since the opening of the Prussian state parliament in 1899, but also sketches an outline of social and political development in Prussia, Germany and Berlin, from the mid-19th century up to the present day. It also gives an insight into the functioning of the house today.

The permanent exhibition can be visited from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm.



Seats can be reserved by telephone, fax, or mail, as well as online, by anyone wishing to sit in on a plenary or committee meeting. Please register as early as possible!



House of Representatives of Berlin /
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