

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 lies at the centre of the reunified city. Together with the Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror and the Bundesrat, it represents a dramatic contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.


Contact

Berlin House of Representatives/
Abgeordnetenhaus von Berlin
Niederkirchnerstraße 5
10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 2325 0
Fax: +49 30 2325 2068
www.parlament-berlin.de

Transport links

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

Opening hours

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Our building is wheelchair accessible.



Dear citizens, dear guests,



I am delighted by your interest in the 'heart of democracy' in Berlin, the seat of our parliament.

This is where the elected Members of Parliament raise your concerns and demands, tackle conflicts brought by urban society, debate with arguments and emotions, look for the right solutions and often find suitable compromises.

The legislative process takes place in a clearly regulated procedure, which you can follow live, either as an observer in the plenary sessions and committee meetings or online.

The legislator, in our case the Berlin House of Representatives, can only expect citizens to comply with the law if they trust that their representatives were elected properly and that the laws are passed according to the rules.

To help you understand these rules and procedures, as well as your participation and involvement in them, you will find many helpful explanations and tips in this brochure.

You can learn about the building's eventful history and its uses through the permanent exhibition and public guided tours.

We are open to everyone.

Yours,

Cornelia Seibeld
President of the Berlin House
of Representatives

A building with 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 (National Congress of Councils) 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: In 1932, the 'Prussian Strike' abruptly ended 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 Prussian state parliament is used as an officers' club after Hermann Göring has the building converted into the 'Aviators' House'.



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

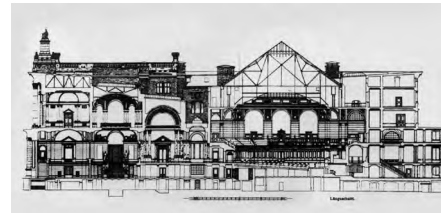
1945 The building is severely damaged shortly before the end of the war.

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



Groundbreaking ceremony in 1991



The President, the Presidium, 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 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, she holds Berlin's highest office and has the following responsibilities:

- swear in the Governing Mayor and the members of the Senate;
- conduct the business of the House of Representatives;
- exercise domiciliary rights and police powers in the building where the parliament holds its sessions;
- represent Parliament externally;
- convene and chair meetings of the House of Representatives;
- review all proposals, applications and enquiries intended for Parliament;
- finalise the laws that have been passed;
- she is the highest authority in parliamentary administration.



Vice-President
Dennis Buchner
(SPD)



Vice-President
Dr Bahar Haghanipour
(Alliance 90 / The Green Party)



President Cornelia Seibeld (CDU) chairs 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 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 Parliament.

The Council of Elders also acts as an arbitration body between the parliamentary groups: in the event of disputes, they strive for understanding and reconciliation.

Plenary assembly

The plenary session is a general meeting of all Members of Parliament.

As a rule, plenary sessions take place every other Thursday. They usually begin at 10 a.m., although Parliament convenes earlier when Berlin's state budget is on the agenda. Parliament's key tasks include legislation, approving the budget, and electing and overseeing the state government (Senate). These are largely carried out 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 topic is requested by a parliamentary group or by at least ten members of the House of Representatives. If there is a choice of several topics, a vote is taken at the beginning of the session.



Plenary sessions are open to the public. The Visitor Service is happy to accept registrations: Phone +49 30 2325 1064 or online at: www.parlament-berlin.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 lengthy preamble; it should be concise, of general interest, and allow for a brief response. Question Time is followed by the priority issues that the parliamentary groups have chosen to highlight during the day's session.

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

Parliament uses **motions** to prompt 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 a decision is needed 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 proposed by the Senate.



The plenary session can be followed via the 'Liveticker' or livestream at www.parlament-berlin.de

The Members of Parliament

The Constitution of Berlin grants the House of Representatives (the legislative branch), strong powers over the Senate (the executive branch), to ensure the rule of law is upheld.

For many decades, the House of Representatives considered itself a 'part-time parliament'. However, in the meantime, it has become clear that the number and scope of tasks can no longer be managed on a part-time basis. Nonetheless, it is still possible to work or train alongside the mandate. The House of Representatives now considers itself a 'full-time parliament'. Certain professional roles in the public sector are incompatible with holding a mandate and must therefore be resigned or suspended.

The most important **tasks** of the Members of Parliament are:

- Election of the President,
- Legislation for the state of Berlin,
- Adopting the budget law,
- Supervising of the government,
- Election of the Presidents of the highest state courts and the Court of Auditors, of the members of the Constitutional Court, the Commissioner for Data Protection, the Commissioner for the Examination of the SED Dictatorship and the Citizen and Police Commissioner.



The Members of Parliament have various tools at their disposal for monitoring the government:

- Written questions that all Members of Parliament can submit to the Senate;
- Spontaneous questions during the plenary session;
- Work in the committees.

The Berlin Constitution places great importance on the **independence of Members of Parliament** by recognising 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.

Members of Parliament receive **compensation** for their work to ensure their independence. Without this parliamentary pay, only the wealthy or people with high incomes could afford to hold office.

The election, status, and rights and obligations of members of the House of Representatives are detailed 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.

Parliamentary groups

The parliamentary groups form the political backbone of Parliament and enable efficient parliamentary work.

FORMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

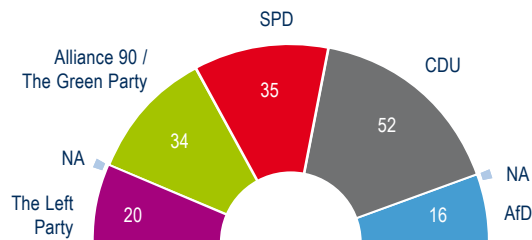
As Parliament deals with so many policy areas, developing expertise in all of them would overwhelm individual members. Those who belong to the same party join forces as a parliamentary group (called a 'Fraktion' – a part of a whole). A parliamentary group must consist of a legally stipulated minimum of seven Members of Parliament. These and all other legal provisions are governed by Parliament's rules of procedure and the law on parliamentary groups.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The members of a parliamentary group elect an executive committee from among their number: the group chairperson, the deputy group chairpersons and the parliamentary secretary. The executive committee is responsible for organising 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 different positions on the issues under consideration are discussed in parliamentary group meetings. A common position is then agreed through a group resolution and, depending on the topic, presented externally by the relevant parliamentary group spokespersons. 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.



The seating arrangement in the plenary chamber accommodates a total of 159 Members of Parliament, including two non-affiliated members (NA)

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 organisation, as well as the rights and responsibilities, of parliamentary groups shall be subject to law.'

THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CDU

Phone +49 30 2325 2115
mail@cdu-fraktion.berlin.de
www.cdu-fraktion.berlin.de
 Chairperson: Dirk Stettner

SPD

Phone +49 30 2325 2222
spd-fraktion@spd.parlament-berlin.de
www.spdfraktion-berlin.de
 Chairperson: Raed Saleh

Alliance 90 / The Green Party

Phone +49 30 2325 2400
gruene@gruene-fraktion.berlin
www.gruene-fraktion.berlin
 Chairpersons: Werner Graf
 and Bettina Jarasch

The Left Party

Phone +49 30 2325 2510
kontakt@linksfraktion.berlin
www.linksfraktion-berlin.de
 Chairpersons: Anne Helm
 and Tobias Schulze

AfD

Phone +49 30 2325 2623
info@afd-fraktion.berlin
www.afd-fraktion.berlin
 Chairperson: Dr Kristin Brinker

Committees

Committee deliberations form the core of Parliament's work, since this is where the actual preparatory work is done.

As a rule, 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 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 OF THE 19TH LEGISLATIVE PERIOD

Committee for Labour and Social Affairs

Committee for Education, Youth and Family Affairs

Committee on European and Federal Affairs and Media Policy

Committee for Digitalisation and Data Protection

Committee for Health and Long-Term Care

Committee for Interior, Security and Public Order

Committee on Integration, Women and Gender Equality, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination

Committee for Culture, Engagement and the Promotion of Democracy

Committee for Mobility and Transport

Committee on Sports

Committee for Urban Development, Building and Housing

Committee for Environmental and Climate Protection

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

Committee on the Protection of the Constitution

Committee on Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises

Committee on Science and Research

Budget Committee

Subcommittee on Investment Management and Control

Subcommittee on Boroughs, Personnel and Administration, as well as Product Budget and Personnel Management

Subcommittee on Budgetary Control

Subcommittee on Asset Management

Petitions Committee

The **Petitions Committee** is an 'advocate for the concerns of citizens'. If people feel that the Berlin administration has treated them unfairly, they can submit an informal complaint to the Petitionsausschuss (Petitions Committee); complaints can also be submitted online. The Petitions Committee, which consists of members from all of the parliamentary groups, will then investigate the charges. It has the right to monitor the activities of the authorities and institutions of the state of Berlin. Anyone can submit a petition to the Petitions Committee of the Berlin House of Representatives. Phone: +49 30 2325 1476. **Online petition** form at www.parlament-berlin.de.



Inquiry committees

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

An inquiry committee is set up to deal with just one particular subject of investigation. In political disputes, it is usually the opposition that applies for this harsh measure.

The aim is to scrutinise or monitor the government's actions in a specific area.

Parliament elects a committee chairperson along with the other committee members and their deputies. All parliamentary groups must be represented on the committee by at least one member.

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

With certain exceptions, the meetings of inquiry committees 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.

In the current 19th legislative term, an inquiry committee is examining the investigative procedures used to resolve a series of right-wing extremist crimes in the Neukölln district.

'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)

The Study commissions

Study commissions explore future developments in society.

Parliament sets up study commissions to gather more information before making major decisions affecting a particular policy or social area.

A quarter of Parliament's members can come together to call for a study commission to be convened. The commission's task is to identify social changes and trends so Parliament can respond to them with its own initiatives. Parliament can appoint both its own members and external experts to sit on this commission. The study commission concludes its work with a final report submitted to Parliament.

In the 17th legislative period, for example, a study commission is investigating the issue of 'The future of energy in Berlin'. In the current 19th legislative term, a study commission was set up 'For social cohesion, against anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination'.



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 is eligible to vote for Parliament? German citizens aged 16 or over who have had their main residence in Berlin for at least three months are eligible to vote.

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

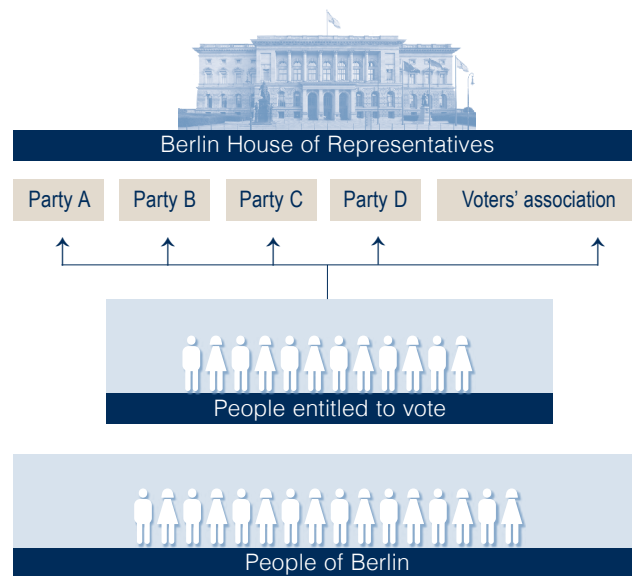
Each party can nominate one candidate for each electoral district. Independent candidates are also free to run for election.

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 allow party organisations at the borough level to directly participate in the nomination of candidates.

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

According to the **first-past-the-post** principle, the candidate receiving the most first votes in their electoral district gets that district's direct seat. With the second vote, every eligible voter supports a party according to their preference. 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, known as 'vote-splitting'.

THE VOTING SYSTEM IN BERLIN



Number of seats: The constitution mandates 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

The representatives are elected in general, equal, secret and direct elections.

Elections for the Berlin House of Representatives are decentralised. The many volunteers working in the polling stations on election day help 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 do they receive an official ballot, to be filled out alone, as a 'secret ballot', in the voting booth.

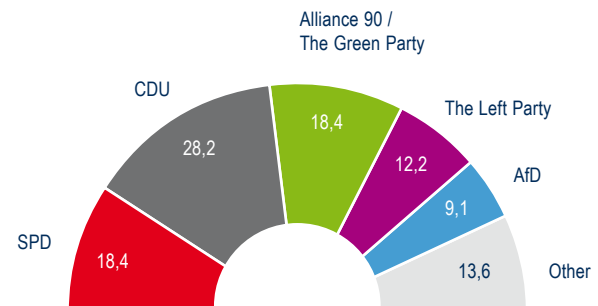
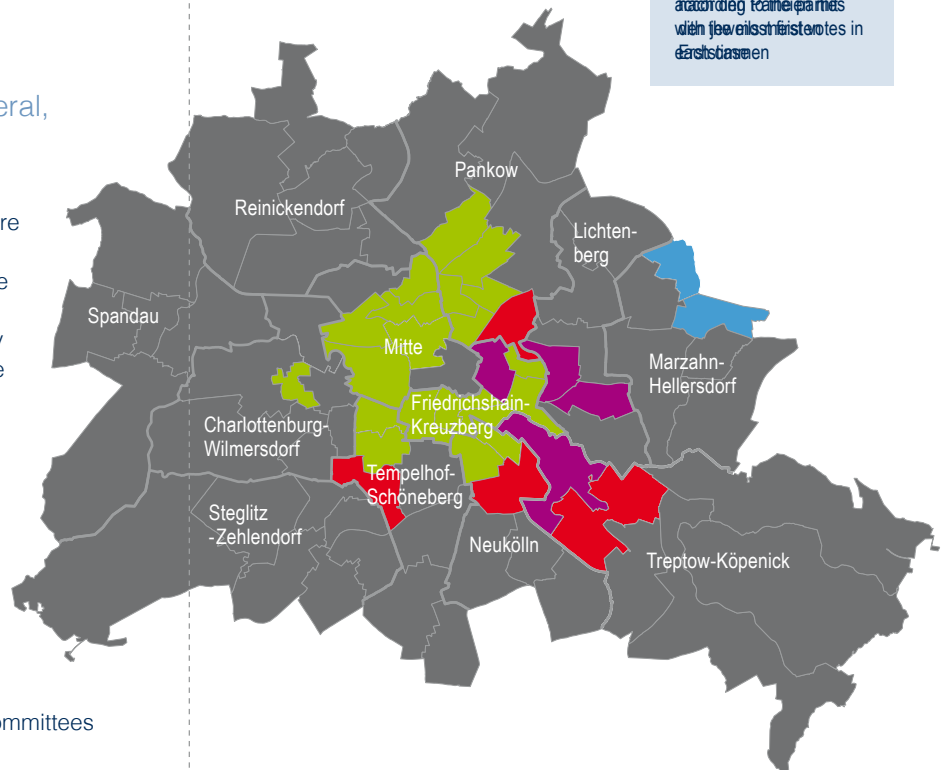
As the borough assembly members are elected at the same time as the House of Representatives, election results are first recorded by the boroughs before being given to the state election officer, who then officially announces the outcome of the election for the House of Representatives.

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.

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

The next election to the Berlin House of Representatives is expected to take place on 20 September 2026

Berlin hat 78 Wahlkreise
in insgesamt 12 Bezirken,
hierfür sind 120 Abgeordnete
zu wählen. Die Parteien
wählen jeweils ihre Kandidaten
in den Wahlkreisen.



Election result of the repeat election to the 19th Berlin House of Representatives (second votes in percent)

The Governing Mayor

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



Kai Wegner, Governing Mayor of Berlin since April 2023

Once 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. 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,
- determines the direction of government policy, which must be approved by the House of Representatives and monitors their adherence to this.
- chairs the Senate, casts the deciding vote when a Senate vote ends in a tie,
- 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

SENATE CHANCELLERY AND THE 10 SENATE DEPARTMENTS

Governing Mayor of Berlin	Dept. for Education, Youth and Families	Dept. for Finance	Dept. for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care	Dept. for the Interior and Sport	Dept. for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination
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The Berlin Senate

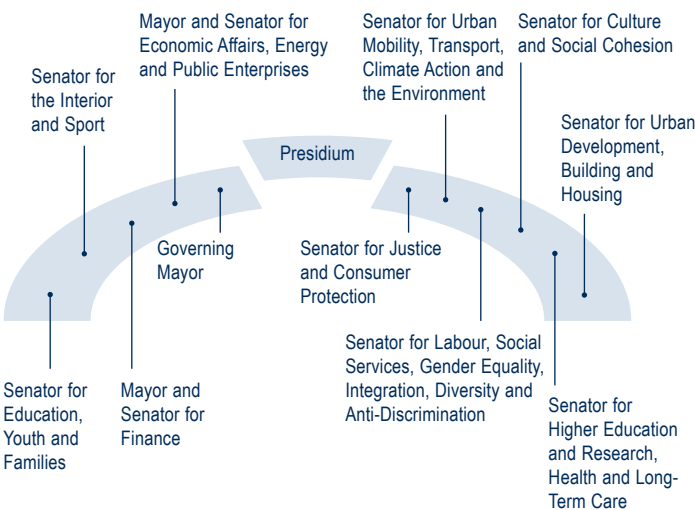


The government of the federal state of Berlin is the Senate, consisting of the Governing Mayor and ten Senators.

At the beginning of the legislative term, the Governing Mayor forms a Senate (equivalent to a cabinet). Each member of the Senate (up to ten) is appointed by the Governing Mayor, with two of them serving as deputies. The senators do not have to be Members of 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 during the subsequent press conference.

GOVERNMENT BENCH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



OF THE STATE OF BERLIN IN THE 19TH LEGISLATIVE PERIOD

Dept. for Justice and Consumer Protection	Dept. for Culture and Social Cohesion	Dept. for Urban Development, Building and Housing	Dept. for Urban Mobility, Transport, Climate Action and the Environment	Dept. for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises
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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 Parliament, are submitted to the President of the House of Representatives.

AGENDA

Once the President receives a bill, the Council of Elders places it on the agenda for one of the upcoming plenary meetings. The members receive a copy of the legislative proposal at least two days before the meeting.

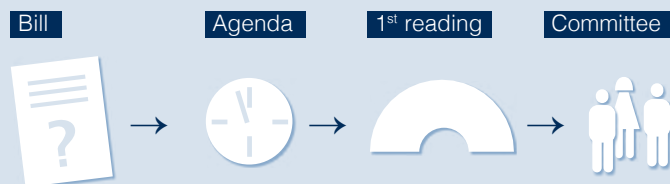
FIRST READING

In general, the legislature restricts itself to discussing basic issues during the first reading of a bill.

REFERRAL TO A COMMITTEE

After the first reading, the bill is referred to the relevant committee for further deliberation. 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 ITS DRAFT



SECOND READING

Every bill must be given at least two readings. The President or the Senate may request a third reading. The second reading is used to consider the individual sections and articles of the bill. After the deliberations, each clause is put to a vote.

VOTING / DRAWING UP

Once the voting on individual clauses is 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 immediately executed by the President without undue delay.

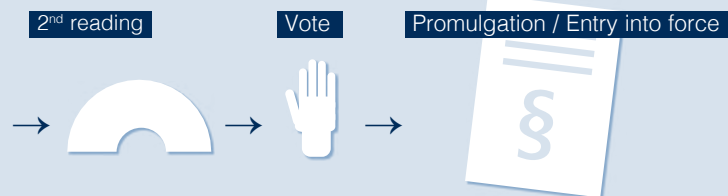
PROMULGATION / ENTRY INTO FORCE

The law is promulgated within two weeks by the Governing Mayor in the 'Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt für Berlin' (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.



Laws are voted on with a show of hands

TO ENTRY INTO FORCE



Administration

190 employees ensure that 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.

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 administrative representative of the President.

In addition to the presidential staff, which includes the **Press Office, Department of Protocol and Parliamentary Relations; Department of Public Relations, Political Education, Events and Visitors' Service**, parliamentary administration is divided into three directorates.

General Administration (Directorate I) is responsible for executing the State Members of Parliament Act, 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 Security and Order Service also fall into the services of this directorate.

The **Scientific Parliamentary Service (Directorate II)** is tasked with supporting the House of Representatives, the President and bodies with legal matters. This primarily involves creating legal reports, often requested during the legislative processes of political groups or parliamentary committees. The President is responsible for commissioning these reports. Requests may come from the plenary, a group or a committee.

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

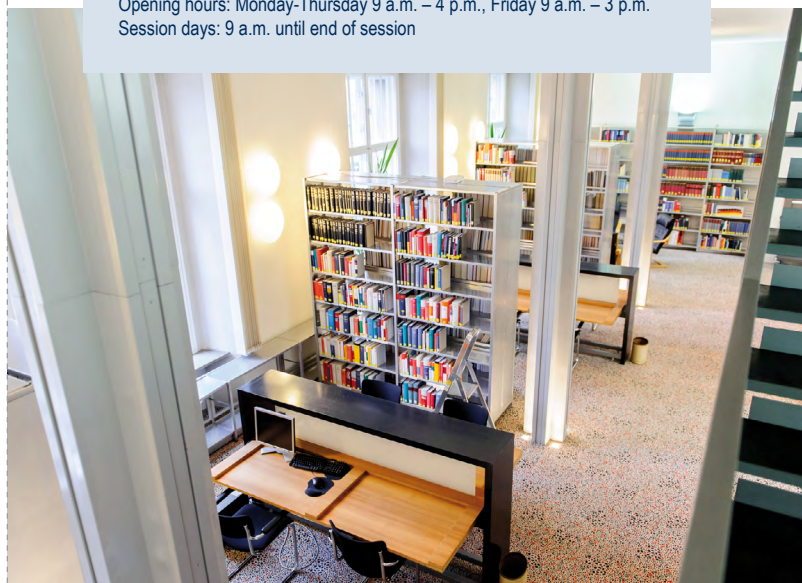
Plenary Assembly and Committee Services (Directorate III) provides support services to the plenary assembly and the committees. This directorate also includes the Shorthand Writers' Service, which records the minutes of various meetings.

The units of the staff department have the following tasks: 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 Press Office also encompasses the social media team, which manages channels such as X, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. The **Protocol and Parliamentary Relations Division** is responsible for organising the reception and itinerary for official visits by domestic and foreign representatives, planning and hosting events and receptions on behalf of the House of Representatives and presidential patronages. The **Public Relations Team** produces brochures and information material for the House of Representatives and organises events and temporary exhibitions. The **Visitors' Service** and **Political Education** (see page 28) are also part of the overall public relations efforts.

House of Representatives Library | Phone: +49 30 2325 1256

Opening hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Session days: 9 a.m. until 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 shaping the appearance of the parliament building – whether through temporary exhibitions or permanent displays such as the gallery of Berlin's honorary citizens.



GALLERY OF HONORARY CITIZENS

The Senate, with the agreement of the House of Representatives, confers honorary citizenship on individuals who have rendered exceptional service to Berlin. The portraits are displayed in the corridors to the right and left of the plenary chamber. The artists of these portraits are chosen by the honorary citizens.



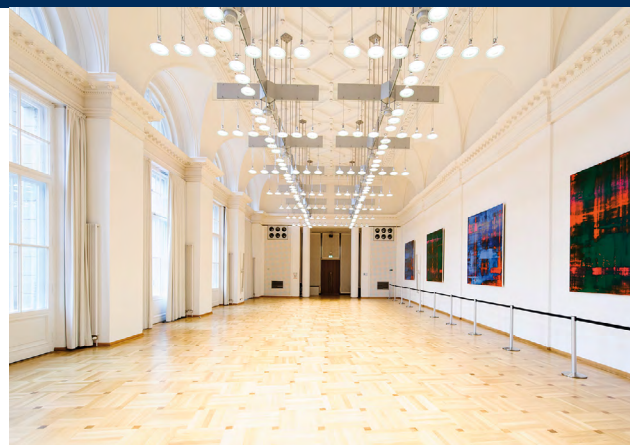
CASINO

The Berlin painter Matthias Koeppel captured the historic event of the opening of the Wall in November 1989 in the form of a triptych of three consecutive scenes. Numerous celebrities, as well as the painter himself, can be seen in the images.



THIRD FLOOR GALLERY

The gallery features busts of former presidents, including the House of Representatives' sole female president, alongside Karl Horst Hödicke's work 'Nur in der City lärmten und klagten die Musen' (Only in the city do the muses clamour and lament).



GRAND HALL

The internationally acclaimed artist Gerhard Richter contributed to the artistic design of the Grand Hall through his paintings, which can be viewed during a guided tour of the House.

IN FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Freiherr vom und zum Stein (photo left) and Karl August Fürst von Hardenberg (photo right) are considered the fathers 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 Regulations Act of 1808.



Visitors' Service

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



TOURS

The Visitors' Service offers free guided tours of the House of Representatives for groups of at least five people and for school classes. The tour offers fascinating insight into the history, architecture and workings of the House of Representatives. Guided tours are arranged individually through the Visitors' Service.

If booked in advance, guided tours can also be offered in different languages or with a specific focus. Guided easy language tours, children's tours and an art tour are also available. 'Open tours' are held regularly and do not require advance booking. Further information is available on our website (see QR code).

POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AND VISITOR PROGRAMMES

On request, the Visitors' Service can arrange meetings with members of any parliamentary group, for example, as part of school trips.

AN 'OPEN' HOUSE WITH HISTORY

A permanent exhibition in the foyer offers an overview of the building's historical events and outlines the social and political development of Prussia, Germany and Berlin from the mid-19th century to the present day. It also provides an insight into the functioning of the house today.

The permanent exhibition is open to visitors from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Berlin House of Representatives
Visitors' Service

Niederkirchnerstraße 5

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