

# Legislature



## General Overview

Article IV, Section 1 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the legislative power of the State in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 38 members elected to four-year terms. Based on the 2001 Apportionment Plan, the population of Senate districts ranges from 248,635 to 274,578. The House of Representatives consists of 110 members elected to two-year terms. House districts range in population from 85,861 to 94,792.

## Major Divisions and Programs

**Legislative Council.** The Legislative Council is a bipartisan entity that consists of six senators appointed by the Senate Majority Leader and six representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House. Through the Legislative Service Bureau, the Council provides for bill drafting, research, and other services for members of the Legislature. The Council also provides budget oversight functions for the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman, Michigan Commission on Uniform State Laws, Michigan Law Revision Commission, and Michigan Sentencing Commission.

**Senate Operations.** This division provides funding for Senate members, their staffs, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and central staffs for the Republicans and Democrats.

**House Operations.** This division provides funding for House members, their staffs, the House Clerk's Office, the House Business Office, the Legislative Analysis Section, and central staffs for the Republicans and Democrats.

**Senate Fiscal Agency.** This nonpartisan agency provides technical assistance to the Senate Appropriations Committee and other members of the Senate. The Senate Fiscal Agency also includes a Legislative Analysis Unit that provides bill analyses for all legislation before the Senate. The Agency is governed by a five-member board consisting of the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and two members of the Appropriations Committee appointed by the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee.

**House Fiscal Agency.** This nonpartisan agency provides technical assistance to the House Appropriations Committee and other members of the House. The Agency is governed by a six-member governing committee consisting of the Speaker of the House, the Minority Leader, the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, the Minority Vice-Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, the Majority Floor Leader and the Minority Floor Leader.

**Property Management.** This division includes funding for the operation and maintenance of the State Capitol, the House Office Building, and the Farnum Building.