

How the Kansas Legislature Works

-  **Meets Every Year:** Kansas has a "citizen" legislature in that it does not meet full time; interim study committees hold extensive hearings between sessions.
-  **Sessions:** Begin the second Monday in January; bulk of session is generally completed by the first part of April; after a 10-20 day recess, they return for a "wrap-up" session to consider any remaining business. They return at the end of May or first of June for "sine die" (no future date set for resumption) adjournment.
-  **Members:** There are 125 members in the Kansas House of Representatives and 40 members in the Senate. House members are elected for 2-year terms, and Senate members for 4-year terms.
-  **Leadership:** The leader and presiding officer in the House is the Speaker and in the Senate the President. Both are traditionally elected the first day of the session following a general election. However, they are actually nominated by the majority party at a caucus prior to the legislative session. The Majority Leader and Minority Leader in both houses are also powerful figures.
-  **Committees:** Most of the work is done through committees. In 2007 there are 18 standing committees in the Senate and 16 Joint Committees of the Senate and House. As committees have a life and death hold on the bills assigned to them, the chairpersons of the most important committees have great power. **NOT ALL COMMITTEES ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE; THIS VARIES FROM YEAR TO YEAR!**
-  **Staff:** The Kansas Legislature has ample staff support. They Include:
- * Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate (handle all bills and documents and keep accurate records of all activities),
 - * Administrative Assistants (eyes and ears of the leadership),
 - * Division of Legislative Administrative Services (central contact point for the public),
 - * Legislative Research Department, Revisor of Statutes Office.
 - * Division of Legislative Post Audit (oversees financial audits and conducts performance audits of state agencies).
-  **Legislative Hotline:** The **HOTLINE** is located at the Capitol. By dialing this number, you can get information about the status of bills under consideration in the Legislature: **1-800-432-3924.**