

# An Overview of the Legislative and Administrative Processes in the State of Iowa

2020

The **Iowa General Assembly (IGA)** is the legislative branch of the state government of Iowa. It is a bicameral body, composed of the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House of Representatives. The General Assembly is made up of 50 senators and 100 representatives.

One senator is elected from each of the state's 50 electoral districts, with each Senate district containing two House of Representatives districts. Each senator represents about 60,927 people and each representative about 30,464 people as of the 2010 United States Census. Senators serve four-year terms and House members serve two-year terms.

## Following the 2018 mid-term elections:

The balance in the 50-seat Iowa Senate:      The balance in the 100-seat Iowa House:

**18 Democrats, 32 Republicans**

**53 Republicans, 47 Democrats**

**President of the Senate:**  
Charles Schneider (R)

**Speaker of the House:**  
Pat Grassley (R)

**President Pro Tempore:**  
Jerry Behn (R)

**Speaker Pro Tempore:**  
John Wills (R)

**Majority Leader:**  
Jack Whitver (R)

**Majority Leader:**  
Matt Windschitl (R)

**Democratic Leader:**  
Janet Petersen (D)

**Minority Leader:**  
Todd Pritchard (D)

**An Iowa General Assembly (IGA) is comprised of two annual sessions.** The 2020 legislative session is the second year of the 88th Iowa General Assembly.

**The General Assembly convenes its regular session on the second Monday of January.** The session commonly lasts 100-110 days, adjourning “sine die” in the late spring.

**Each legislative session operates under a schedule of deadline dates—the “funnel.”** The schedule exists to make the session more manageable. The funnel dates are set by joint rule and chamber rules. To see the calendar for the 2020 session:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/SESTT/current.pdf>

**The Legislative Service Agency FACTBOOK** covers a broad range of topics with facts, tables and maps that provide current and historical information on the state of Iowa.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/fiscal/factbookIndDoc?pubType=MOW>

### **Helpful Links for Additional Information**

Find your legislator and district: [www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators)

Link to Iowa General Assembly Home Page: [www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)

For legislative updates and additional resources and to read Iowa Catholic newsletter: [www.iowacatholicconference.org](http://www.iowacatholicconference.org)