

PARLIAMENT

State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg (Landtag von Baden-Württemberg)

GENERAL DATA

General data of the region

- Country (*area and population*): **Germany; area: 357.121,41 km²; 81.859 Mio. inhabitants (30 November 2011)**
- Region (*area and population*): **Baden-Württemberg; area: 35.751,46 km², 10.789 Mio. inhabitants (30 November 2011)**
- Regional government: **yes**
- Competences of the region: **yes; legislative powers do exist e.g. in the fields of education, culture, science, home affairs, penal execution, fire brigades, municipal law**

General data of the Parliament

- Headquarters: **Landtag von Baden-Württemberg,**



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Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 3, D-70173 Stuttgart

- Language: **German**
- Date of foundation: **foundation of the State of Baden-Württemberg: 25 April 1952**
- Web site: <http://www.landtag-bw.de>

Baden-Württemberg's coat of arms eloquently expresses the state's unity in diversity.



FUNCTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT

Brief description of the functions of the Parliament

Making laws is the most important task of the representatives elected to parliament. The State Parliament exercises legislative power and controls the way the State Government uses its executive powers. The third branch of government, the judiciary, is independent and its powers are exercised by judges who are answerable only to the law.

The State Parliament is able to pass laws by simple majority of the MPs present. The state constitution might be amended by the State Parliament by two thirds majority provided that at least two third of the MPs are present at the time of voting and representing at least more than one-half of all MPs.

Another fundamental duty of the State Parliament is to elect the holders of other constitutional offices: it elects the Minister President from among its members in a secret ballot and confirms the State Government. The Parliament also elects the President and the members of the State Court of Justice. Appointments to the presidency of the State Court of Audit and the State Commissioner for Data Protection also require the approval of Parliament.

The work of the State Parliament has changed in response to an array of new political challenges. In the period after 1952, when the administrative foundations of the new state were being laid, the Parliament focused on passing legislation. Today, in contrast, the Parliament concentrates



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on scrutinizing the work of the government and the administration.

The Parliament's budgetary powers – or, as is often said, its "royal prerogative" – allow the State Parliament to decide how money derived from taxes, duties and charges should be spent. The State's budget, which details its revenue and spending, is approved by the State Parliament. In addition to its approval or rejection rights, the Parliament's budgetary powers also include the right to monitor government spending. The State Parliament controls the financial activities of the state authorities by examining the budget accounts submitted at the end of the year by the Minister of Finance.

COMPOSITION

Total composition

138 MPs

Gender distribution and average age

26 women (18,8 %); average age: 51

Electoral system

The electoral system combines the principles of proportional representation with a first-past-the-post system of votes for individual candidates.



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Term of office

5 years

Voting conditions (active suffrage)

The right to vote and the right to stand for election are held by all German citizens who, on the day of the election, are at least 18 years old and have lived, had their main residence, or otherwise been permanent residents in Baden-Württemberg for the previous three months as a minimum.

Conditions for eligibility (passive suffrage)

- See previous question -

No special qualifications are required in order to become a Member of Parliament. The political parties have the final say when it comes to deciding who is to stand as a candidate for election. What the parties are mainly looking for when selecting candidates at election conferences is the ability to do the job, active involvement in the community and life experience. Ultimately, however, it is the voter who decides on election day which of the parties' candidates receives a mandate to represent them in the State Parliament.

Composition of the Parliament as a result of the last parliamentary elections

The official results of the State Parliament elections held on



27 March 2011:

Electorate 7,622,873

Number of votes 5,051,941

Valid votes 4,983,719

Turn out 66.3 per cent

Total number of seats: 138

Party - Share of Votes – Seats:

CDU - 39.0 % - 60

GRÜNE - 24.2 % - 36

SPD - 23.1 % - 35

FDP/DVP - 5.3 % - 7

other - 8.4 %

Political parties and number of seats

- see previous question -

Parliamentary political groups

The parliamentary groups of the CDU, Alliance '90/Die GRÜNEN, SPD and the FDP/DVP are all represented in the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg for the legislative period from 2011 to 2016.

A parliamentary group is an organisational structure formed by MPs from the same political party. The political positions represented by a party's MPs are mediated and focused in the Debating Chamber and in the Committees by the parliamentary groups. A large share of the political initiatives started in Parliament originates with the parliamentary groups, which are supported – according to their size – by a staff of specialists provided by the



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parliamentary advice and support service.

The parliamentary groups have the right to propose or nominate individuals to various positions, such as the State Parliament Committees, Committee chairs, or the President and the Vice-Presidents. The parliamentary groups are able to introduce draft laws and other motions signed on their behalf by the chairperson of the group.

The parliamentary groups form working parties which focus on particular policy areas or issues. The main task of the working parties is to prepare the initiatives submitted by the parliamentary groups and to guide them successfully through the Committees.

Requirements to form a parliamentary political group

At least 6 MPs of the same political party

THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARLIAMENT

The Speaker/President

Guido Wolf MdL (CDU)

Method of election, term of office and functions

The President of the State Parliament (Speaker) and the two Vice-Presidents are elected by the State Parliament in a secret ballot. Traditionally the President is a member of the strongest parliamentary group.

Details of current President:

<http://www.der-wolf-im-revier.de/>

Details contact

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The Speaker/President **Guido Wolf MdL** (CDU)

Other bodies (Bureau/Spokesmen's Conference/....)

Executive Committee

The 19 members of the Executive Committee include the President of the State Parliament, the two Vice-Presidents and the chairpersons and several leading members of the parliamentary groups. For the State Government's side, one



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minister may attend the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee holds the main responsibility for managing and directing the activities of the Parliament. The Committee sets dates for the plenary sessions in the year ahead, as well for the Committees, the parliamentary groups and their working parties. It also schedules the business to be dealt with in the Chamber and agrees how much time will be granted to individual speakers. The Committee discusses all the fundamental issues concerning relations between the Parliament and the State Government and agrees the Parliament's staff and materials budget.

PARLIAMENTARY OPERATING ORGANS

Plenary session

Composition

138 MPs

Functions

Decisions are taken by the State Parliament in the Chamber where all the MPs meet and discuss bills. The Chamber is the venue for political debate and the forum at which important political statements are made by parliamentary groups and the government.

Verbatim minutes of parliamentary proceedings – which are always open to the public – are recorded by the official stenographer. The minutes of proceedings



and consultative papers (parliamentary journals and publications) are all made available to the general public. Proceedings in the Chamber are chaired by the President or one of the Vice-Presidents. The President is flanked by two MPs who act as recording clerks and provide support maintaining order and directing voting proceedings. When deciding who should be called to speak in a debate the President must not only take account of the order in which requests to speak have been received, but must also try to ensure that a balance of political views is represented during a debate. Official spokesmen or women of the government must be called to speak on request even if they are not included on the list of speakers or in the agenda. Details are governed by the State Parliament's standing orders.

Committees

Composition and functions

The State Parliament sets up a number of Committees in order to achieve an efficient division of labour and to ensure that the necessary groundwork is laid for its deliberations and decisions. The parliamentary groups send specialists in areas such as financial and economic policy, educational policy or environmental issues to be members of the relevant Committees.

The Committees discuss and produce recommendations on specific issues which are usually sent to them for consideration by the Chamber. All of the Committees have 19 members, with the exception of the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee and the Petitions Committee which both have 23



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members.

Types (list)

- ***Standing Committee***
- ***Finance and Economics Affairs Committee***
- ***Schools, Youth and Sport Committee***
- ***Science, Research and Arts Committee***
- ***Internal Affairs Committee***
- ***Environment, Climate and Energy Policy Committee***
- ***Employment, Social Affairs, Families, Women and Senior Citizens Committee***
- ***Rural Development and Consumer Protection Committee***
- ***Transport and Infrastructure Committee***
- ***Integration Committee***
- ***Europe and International Committee***
- ***Petitions Committee***

- ***Committee of Inquiry "Purchase of the EnBW shares in Électricité de France (EdF) by the State of Baden-Württemberg and the consequences (EnBW Deal)"***

PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATION

General data

Personnel: Number of full-time employees

144 positions in the administration
44 parliamentary advisory positions

Functions

The State Parliament Administration is headed by the State Parliament Director Hubert Wicker and is directly accountable to the President of the State Parliament Guido Wolf MdL.

I. Parliamentary Services:

- 1. Legal Services, European Affairs and Petitions***
- 2. Chamber, Committee Service, Publications***
- 3. Stenographic Services***
- 4. Public Relations***

II. Administration

- 1. Protocol, Events, Visitor Services***
- 2. MP Support, Budget***
- 3. Staff, Organisation, Internal Services, Technical Services***
- 4. Information Service***



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Brief description of functions

The State Parliament Administration is responsible for the smooth performance of parliamentary business and supports the work of MPs and the parliamentary groups. The State Parliament Administration, which is headed by the State Parliament Director and is directly accountable to the President of the State Parliament, has 144 positions – as well as 44 parliamentary advisory positions for the parliamentary groups – and is the highest government agency in Baden-Württemberg.

The State Parliament Administration implements decisions taken by the Executive Committee, lays the business and organisational foundations for the Parliament's plenary sessions and helps the conveners prepare for Committee meetings.

The Parliament's legal service is available to provide assistance if legal issues relating, for example, to constitutional matters or standing orders arise. In response to the growing impact of European policy at the regional level, the Parliament has set up its own European affairs office.

The mouthpiece of the State Parliament and the President is the Public Relations Department. While the Parliament's special visitor section takes care of the protocol for visiting dignitaries, the needs of our many other guests are looked after by our Visitor Services.

The Parliament's administration and all MPs' offices are, of course, equipped with modern computers with access to important databases and the internet. The Information Centre stores books, magazines, statutes, minutes and publications in its parliamentary archives, parliamentary



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documentation, library and data processing sections.

General Secretariat

General Secretariat

- does not exist -

Organic Structure of the Parliament

Description

- see previous answers concerning the State Parliament Administration -

Bodies/Departments/Services

- see previous answers concerning the State Parliament Administration -

Contact details for CALRE

Contact person/department

***Reinhard Hönle
Head of Unit Legal and European Affairs***



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Working languages

DE-EN-FR-IT

Contact details (address, e-mail and telephone number)

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BUILDING OF THE PARLIAMENT

History and description

The Parliament building itself was officially opened in 1961. The cube shaped building (20m high and built on an area of 54 x 54m) envelopes the windowless Debating Chamber. Grouped around the Debating Chamber on the main and first floors are smaller Committee rooms and the offices of the parliamentary groups, the State Government and the State Parliament Administration.

The fossils embedded in the great slate wall in the entrance hall come from the area around Holzmaden at the foot of the Swabian Alb and are at least 140 million years old. The portrait busts lining the sidewall to the right represent former Presidents of the State Parliament. The triptych "Paraphrases on the national colours" on the staircase up to the main floor was painted by the Stuttgart based artist Otto Herbert Hajek.

In the Debating Chamber, the 138 members of the 15th State Parliament – with the exception of the leaders of the parliamentary groups – usually sit in alphabetical order. The broadcasting booths of Südwestrundfunk – the public broadcasting company for the southwest of Germany – of private broadcasters and an area for TV cameras, are located behind the MPs. Newspaper correspondents have reserved seats in the press gallery just above the government benches. The public gallery provides seating for around 240 members of the public.

The lobby hall on the main floor – graced by an impressive equestrian statue by the Italian sculptor Marino Marini and

the tapestry designed by the French artist Jean Lurçat in the seating area next to the Schofer Room – offers an ideal arena for meetings and formal events.

The members' building on the other side of Konrad-Adenauer Street – the "Haus der Abgeordneten" – is linked to the Parliament building by a tunnel. This eight-storey building, which began being used by MPs in 1987, houses 210 offices, including rooms for MPs, as well as general purpose and parliamentary group meeting rooms. The members' building also contains an information centre, a printing shop, a publications office, archive and records rooms, a technology section and an underground garage.



The building of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg