



SENAT RP

NOTES ON THE SENATE

**SENATE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF POLAND**

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Statistics in Brief: Senate Terms One to Six

Information about Senate performance

The Senate of the Third Polish Republic exists already more than 19 years. During that period, its composition changed seven times. When looking at information concerning senators' work, one needs to bear in mind that the three Senate terms were much shorter than the successive ones: the first term of the Senate lasted from July 1989 to October 1991, the second – from November 1991 to May 1993, the sixth – from October 2005 to November 2007 whereas the other terms were four years long. This had a fundamental impact on the number of Senate sittings and on other statistics relating to its performance.

During the first term, the Senate held 61 plenary sessions (lasting the total of 90 days) and Senate committees met 871 times. During the second term, the Senate met 40 times (69 days of deliberations) and Senate committees – 736 times. In the third term, there were 107 Senate sessions (177 days) and 2519 committee meetings. In the fourth term, there were 90 Senate plenary sessions (188 days) and 2000 committee meetings. During the fifth term, the Senate met 88 times (175 days) and committees – 2365 times. During the sixth term, the Senate met 39 times (75 days) and committees – 1136 times.

| Senate Term | Number of bills examined by the Senate | Number of bills to which the Senate filed amendments (number of amendments) | Number of Senate-amended bills accepted by the Sejm (number of accepted amendments) |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| First 1989–1991 | 248 | 84 (no data) | 67 (no data) |
| Second 1991–1993 | 102 | 47 (no data) | 37 (no data) |
| Third 1993–1997 | 484 | 207 (no data) | 194 (no data) |
| Fourth 1997–2001 | 656 | 372 (6612) | 344 (4795) |
| Fifth 2001–2005 | 899 | 495 (7176) | 479 (5953) |
| Sixth 2005–2007 | 386 | 175 (1839) | 159 (1498) |

In the first term, the Senate submitted 27 own legislative proposals (the Sejm adopted 17), in the second term – 9 (adopted 4), in the third term – 19 (5), in the fourth term – 27 (15) and in the fifth term – 26 (16), in the sixth term – 19 (3).

Information about senators (status at term start)

| | 1 st term 1989–1991 | 2 nd term 1991–1993 | 3 rd term 1993–1997 | 4 th term 1997–2001 | 5 th term 2001–2005 | 6 th term 2005–2007 |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Average age* | 54 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 56 | 53 |
| Number of women | 7 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 23 | 13 |
| Senators with higher education (total) | 87 | 87 | 85 | 87 | 91 | 94 |
| Senators with legal education | 15 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 20 |
| Professors | 26 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 20 | 15 |
| Professional senators** | 35 | 35 | 80 | 90 | 85 | 83 |
| Senators also serving as territorial councillors*** | | 13 | 14 | 30 | 27 | 56 |
| Senators with previous parliamentary experience | 4 | 32 | 31 | 42 | 56 | 34 |
| Unaffiliated senators | 100 | 42 | 42 | 63 | 22 | 36 |

* The average age over all five terms was approximately 52. According to the Polish constitution, a senator must be at least 30 years old.

** For first and second term – term-start data; for the rest terms – term-end data.

*** At the beginning of the first term, before the package of territorial self-government laws was adopted, the position of what is now known as territorial councillor did not exist and so it is not shown in the table. As of the fifth term, the senatorial mandate cannot be combined with the position of territorial councillor. The fifth and sixth term shows the number of senators who have local self-government experience.

Membership in political clubs

In the First Term Senate, 99 senators belonged to the Civic Parliamentary Club and one was unaffiliated.

In the second term, as many as 12 parliamentary clubs were created. They grouped from 22 senators (Democratic Union Parliamentary Club) to only 2 (“Solidarity” Polish Peasants’ Alliance Parliamentary Club). Other parliamentary clubs that existed during the second term: Christian National Alliance (12 senators), “Solidarity” Trade Union (11 senators), Centre Alliance (9 senators), Polish Peasants’ Alliance (9 senators), People’s Alliance (5 senators), Confederation for Independent Poland (4 senators), Democratic Left Alliance (4 senators), Christian Democratic Party (3 senators), as well as the Independent Senators’ Club (8 senators) and Liberal Democratic Club (7 senators). 4 senators did not belong to any parliamentary club.

During the third term, the Democratic Left Alliance Club and the Polish People’s Alliance Club had almost the same number of members (37 and 35 senators respectively). The “Solidarity” Trade Union Club grouped 12 senators and the Democratic Club – 6. 7 senators were members of the Independent Senators’ Club and 1 did not belong to any parliamentary club.

The “Solidarity” Electoral Action Club was the largest club during the fourth term of the Senate (51 senators), followed by the Democratic Left Alliance Club (28 senators) and the Democratic Club (8 senators). The club of the Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland had 5 senators. The Circle of Peasant and Independent Senators had 4 members and 4 senators did not belong to any club.

There were two clubs at the beginning of the fifth term: the Senate Club of the Democratic Left Alliance / Labour Union (75 senators) and the Senators’ Club Bloc Senate 2001 (14 members). In addition, there was the Circle of Peasant and Independent Senators (5 members), the Parliamentary Club of the

Self-Defence Party of the Republic of Poland (2 senators) and the Parliamentary Club of the League of Polish Families (2 senators). 2 senators did not belong to any club. The following clubs and circles were established during that term: Senate Club of the Polish Social Democratic Party, Senate Circle of the League of Polish Families, Circle of Senators of the Self-Defence Party of the Republic of Poland and the Senate Circle of the Freedom Union which was subsequently transformed into the Senate Circle *demokracy.pl*. Some senators also belonged to the Civic Platform Parliamentary Club and the Law and Justice Parliamentary Club.

At the beginning of the sixth term Senate, there existed the Law and Justice Parliamentary Club which grouped 50 senators, Civic Party Senators' Club – 34 members, League of Polish Families Parliamentary Club – 7 senators. The Circle of Independent and People's Senators had 5 members, the Self-Defence Parliamentary Club counted 3 senators, the Polish People's Alliance Parliamentary Club had 2 senators and 1 senator did not belong to any club. During that Senate term, the Nationalist Senators' Club and the People's Nationalist Senators' Club were formed and one senator joined the Democratic Left Alliance Parliamentary Club.

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