



WHAT DOES AN ASSEMBLY MEMBER DO?

New York State has a “bicameral” or “two-house” legislature style of government. Each New York State resident is represented by one state Senator and one state Assembly Member. These two state representatives serve in the New York State Legislature.

What is the New York State Assembly?

The New York State Assembly is a legislative body that serves as the lower house of the State Legislature and has 150 seats. Members of the Assembly introduce and vote on state legislation, serve on committees and subcommittees, convene hearings with state agencies, allocate Member items, help negotiate state funding, oversee community projects, facilitate civic and public health initiatives, and more. In their districts, offices of Members of the Assembly collaborate with city agencies to resolve constituent concerns and develop programs and initiatives in service to their communities.

Structure of the New York State Government

The State Government is separated into three parts called branches, which are the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch and Judicial Branch. Each branch is responsible for governing the state in its own respective duties.

Responsibilities of a New York State Assembly Member include:

- 1) Passing bills on public policy matters
- 2) Raising and lowering taxes
- 3) Serve a negotiating role within the state’s budgetary process
- 4) Advocating for people who are living with difficulty
- 5) Voting to uphold or override gubernatorial, or state governor, vetoes
- 6) Oversight over state governmental agencies & entities
- 7) Required to report to Albany, New York State’s Capital, during the first six months of the calendar year for legislative convening

Your representative in the New York State Assembly is interested in hearing your ideas for legislation and how you feel about bills already in the works.



Information provided courtesy of

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New York State Government

The Executive Branch: Governor

- implement state laws
- power to either approve or veto bills passed by the New York State Legislature
- nominate people to positions within his or her office administration or cabinet and to state boards and commissions

Lieutenant Governor

- to act as governor when the governor is temporarily absent from the office
- succeeds a governor if incapacitated

Attorney General

- advises the Executive branch of State government
- defends actions and proceedings on behalf of the State

Comptroller

- manages the state's pension fund
- audits the spending practices of all state agencies and local governments
- reports state finances

The Judicial Branch:

- State judicial branches are usually led by the State supreme court, which hears from lower-level State courts
- New York State courts have various jurisdictions (from village and town courts to the State's highest court named the Court of Appeals)
- The Judicial Branch provides a forum for the peaceful, fair and prompt resolution of civil claims, family disputes, criminal charges, juvenile delinquency charges, disputes between citizens and their government and challenges to government actions
- provide legal protection for children, the mentally ill and others entitled to the special protection of the court
- review administrative determinations to admonish, censure or remove judges or justices

The Legislative Branch:

Senate

- the Senate alone has the power to confirm the Governor's appointment on non-elected state officials and court judges.
- Senate is to work with the Assembly and the Governor to enact, amend or repeal statutes which make up the body of laws by which we are governed
- drafting, discussing and approving bills and resolutions

Assembly

- Passing bills on public policy matters
- Raising and lowering taxes
- Ensuring programs are funded are operated
- Advocating for people who are living with difficulty
- Voting to uphold or override gubernatorial, or state governor, vetoes

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