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STAGGERED STATE LEGISLATIVE TERMS

This memorandum summarizes information related to staggered elections and terms of membership for state representatives and senators.

House of Representatives Terms and Election Conduct

The term length of state representatives in all states is either 2 years or 4 years and only 1 state staggers the terms of representatives.

- In 44 states (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, **Kansas**, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), elections for all representatives' seats are held every 2 years.
- Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, and Mississippi hold elections for all representatives' seats every 4 years.
- North Dakota is the only state that staggers representatives' terms of office, electing half of its representatives every 2 years for 4-year terms.
- Nebraska is a unicameral legislature, meaning it has only 1 chamber, and its members are referred to as "senators."

The table below provides state-specific information on the numbers of representatives, terms of representatives, and whether elections and terms are staggered.

Representatives' Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Representatives	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
Alabama	105	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Alabama, Art. IV, Sec. 46
Alaska	40	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Alaska, Art. 2, Sect. 3
Arizona	60	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Arizona,

Representatives' Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Representatives	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
				<u>Art. 4, Part 2, Sec. 1</u>
Arkansas	100	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Arkansas, Art. 5, Sec. 2</u>
California	80	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of California, Art. IV, Sec. 2</u>
Colorado	65	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Colorado, Art. V, Sec. 2</u>
Connecticut	151	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Connecticut, Art. 3, Sec. 8</u>
Delaware	41	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Delaware Code, Title 29, Ch. 8, Sec. 801</u>
Florida	120	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Florida, Art. III, Sec. 15(b)</u>
Georgia	180	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Georgia, Art. III, Sec. II, Paragraph V</u>
Hawaii	51	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Hawaii, Art. III, Sec. 3</u>
Idaho	70	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Idaho, Art. III, Sec. 2</u>
Illinois	118	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Illinois, Art. IV, Sec. 2(b)</u>
Indiana	100	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Indiana, Art. 4, Sec. 3</u>
Iowa	100	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Iowa, Art. III, Sec. 3</u>
Kansas	125	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Kansas, Art. II, Sec. 2</u>
Kentucky	100	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Kentucky, Art. III, Sec. 30</u>
Louisiana	105	4 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Louisiana, Art. III, Sec. 1(A)</u>
Maine	154	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Maine, Art. IV, Sec. 2</u>
Maryland	141	4 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Maryland, Art. III, Sec. 6</u>
Massachusetts	160	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Articles of Amendment, Art. LXIV, Sec. 1</u>
Michigan	110	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Michigan, Art. IV, Sec. 3</u>
Minnesota	134	2 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Art. 4, Sec. 4</u>
Mississippi	122	4 years	Not Staggered	<u>The Constitution of the State of Mississippi, Art. 4, Sec. 34</u>

Representatives' Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Representatives	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
Missouri	163	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Missouri, Art. III, Sec. 11
Montana	100	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Montana, Art. V, Sec. 3
Nebraska	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nevada	42	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Nevada, Art. 4, Sec. 3
New Hampshire	400	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New Hampshire, Part Second, Art. 9
New Jersey	80	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New Jersey, Art. IV, Sec. II(4)
New Mexico	70	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Art. IV, Sec. 4
New York	150	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New York, Art. III, Sec. 2
North Carolina	120	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of North Carolina, Art. II, Sec. 4
North Dakota	94	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of North Dakota, Art. IV, Sec. 3
Ohio	99	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Ohio, Art. II, Sec. 2
Oklahoma	101	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, Art. V, Sec. 10A
Oregon	60	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Oregon, Art. IV, 4(1)
Pennsylvania	203	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania, Art. II, Sec. 3
Rhode Island	75	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Art. IV, Sec. 1
South Carolina	124	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of South Carolina, Art. III, Sec. 2
South Dakota	70	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of South Dakota, Art. 3, Sec. 6
Tennessee	99	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Tennessee, Art. II, Sec. 3
Texas	150	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Texas, Art. 3, Sec. 4
Utah	75	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Utah, Art. VI, Sec. 3
Vermont	150	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Vermont, Ch. 2, Sec. 13
Virginia	100	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Virginia, Art. IV, Sec. 3

Representatives' Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Representatives	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
Washington	98	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Washington, Art. II, Sec. 5
West Virginia	100	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of West Virginia, Art. VI, Sec. 3
Wisconsin	99	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, Art. IV, Sec. 4
Wyoming	60	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Wyoming, Art. 3, Sec. 2

Senate Terms and Election Conduct

The term length of senators at the state level is either 2 years or 4 years, and states vary as to whether those 4-year terms are staggered. In some states, reapportionment affects term length.

- In 12 states (Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Vermont), elections for all senate seats are every 2 years and members' terms are not staggered.
- In 9 states (Alabama, **Kansas**, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Virginia), elections for all senate seats are held every 4 years and the states do not stagger members' terms.
- Minnesota and New Jersey also do not stagger senators' terms, but hold elections for all senate seats every 4 years, except after reapportionment, when senators are elected for 2-year terms.
- In 22 states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), elections are staggered and, generally, half of all senate seats are up for election every four years.
- Delaware, Florida, and Hawaii have staggered elections every 4 years with the exception of elections after reapportionment. In Delaware and Hawaii, roughly half of the senators are elected for 2-year terms after reapportionment. In Florida, some senators are elected for terms of 2 years when necessary after reapportionment to maintain staggered terms.
- In Arkansas, senators are elected every 4 years, except after reapportionment, when all seats are up for election. Newly elected senators draw lots; half serve 2-year terms and half 4-year terms.
- The system in Illinois divides senators into 3 classes for elections. The senators from the first class are elected every 4 years, 4 years, and 2 years. The senators

from the second class are elected every 4 years, 2 years, and 4 years. The senators from the third class are elected every 2 years, 4 years, and 4 years.

The table below provides state-specific information on the number of senators, terms of senators, and whether elections and terms are staggered.

Senator Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Senators	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
Alabama	35	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Alabama, Art. IV, Sec. 46
Alaska	20	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Alaska, Art. 2 Sect. 3
Arizona	30	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Arizona, Art. 4, Part 2, Sec. 1
Arkansas	35	4 years. After reapportionment, all seats are up for election and half receive a 2-year term and the other half receive a 4-year term.	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Arkansas, Art. 5, Sec. 3
California	40	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of California, Art. IV, Sec. 2(a)(1)
Colorado	35	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Colorado, Art. V, Sec. 5
Connecticut	36	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Connecticut, Art. 3, Sec. 8
Delaware	21	4 years. However, after reapportionment, 10 senators shall be elected to 2-year terms and 11 to 4-year terms.	Staggered	The Delaware Code Title 29, Ch. 8, Sec. 802
Florida	40	4 years. However, after reapportionment, some senators shall be elected to a 2-year term.	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Florida, Art. III, Sec. 15(a)
Georgia	56	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Georgia, Art. III, Sec. II, Paragraph V
Hawaii	25	4 years. However, after reapportionment, 12 senators are elected to 2-year terms.	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Hawaii, Art. IV, Sec. 8
Idaho	35	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Idaho, Art. III, Sec. 2
Illinois	59	2 or 4 years. Senators are divided into three classes. The first class serves terms of 4, 4, and 2 years; the second class serves terms of 4, 2, and 4 years; and the third class serves terms of 2, 4, and 4 years.	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Illinois, Art. IV, Sec. 2(a)
Indiana	50	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Indiana, Art. 4, Sec. 3

Senator Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Senators	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
Iowa	50	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Iowa, Art. III, Sec. 6
Kansas	40	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Kansas, Art. II, Sec. 2
Kentucky	38	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Kentucky, Art. III, Sec. 30 Kentucky State Senate
Louisiana	39	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Louisiana, Art. III, Sec. 1(A)
Maine	35	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Maine, Art. IV, Sec. 1
Maryland	47	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Maryland, Art. III, Sec. 6
Massachusetts	40	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Articles of Amendment, Art. LXIV, Sec. 1
Michigan	38	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Michigan, Art. IV, Sec. 2
Minnesota	67	4 years. However, after reapportionment, all senate seats are up for election.	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Art. 4, Sec. 4
Mississippi	52	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Mississippi, Art. 4, Sec. 35
Missouri	34	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Missouri, Art. III, Sec. 11
Montana	50	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Montana, Art. V, Sec. 3
Nebraska	49	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Nebraska, Art. III, Sec. 7
Nevada	21	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Nevada, Art. 4, Sec. 4 Nevada Legislature Website - Terms of Office
New Hampshire	24	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New Hampshire, Part Second, Art. 27
New Jersey	40	4 years. However, after reapportionment, senators shall be elected to a two-year term.	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New Jersey, Art. IV, Sec. II(2)
New Mexico	42	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Art. IV, Sec. 4
New York	63	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of New York, Art. III, Sec. 2
North Carolina	50	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of North Carolina, Art. II, Sec. 2

Senator Terms and Election Conduct by State				
State	Number of Senators	Term	Staggering of Elections and Terms	Citation
North Dakota	47	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of North Dakota, Art. IV, Sec. 3
Ohio	33	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Ohio, Art. II, Sec. 2
Oklahoma	48	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, Art. V, Sec. 9A
Oregon	30	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Oregon, Art. IV, 4(2)
Pennsylvania	50	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania, Art. II, Sec. 3 Ballotpedia
Rhode Island	38	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Art. IV, Sec. 1
South Carolina	46	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of South Carolina, Art. III, Sec. 6
South Dakota	35	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of South Dakota, Art. 3, Sec. 6
Tennessee	33	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Tennessee, Art. II, Sec. 3
Texas	31	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Texas, Art. 3, Sec. 3
Utah	29	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Utah, Art. VI, Sec. 4
Vermont	30	2 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Vermont, Ch. 2, Sec. 18
Virginia	40	4 years	Not Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Virginia, Art. IV, Sec. 2
Washington	49	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Washington, Art. II, Sec. 6
West Virginia	34	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of West Virginia, Art. VI, Sec. 3
Wisconsin	33	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, Art. IV, Sec. 5
Wyoming	30	4 years	Staggered	The Constitution of the State of Wyoming, Art. 3, Sec. 2