

# NOTES ON THE SENATE



**SENATE  
OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF POLAND**

## *Essential statistics about the Senate of the First-to-Ninth Terms*

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### **DATA ON THE WORK OF THE SENATE**

The Senate of the Third Polish Republic has been in existence for over 30 years. During that time, its composition changed 10 times. Analysing data on the work of senators of particular terms of office, one should remember that three of them were much shorter than the four other terms. The Senate of the First Term worked from June 1989 to November 1991, the Senate of the Second Term – from November 1991 to May 1993 and the Senate of the Sixth Term – from October 2005 to November 2007. The remaining terms of office lasted four years each. This had a fundamental effect on the number of sittings and other statistical data on the work of the Senate.

The Senate of the First Term held 61 sessions (lasting 90 days in total) and its committees held 882 sessions. The Senate of Second Term held 40 sessions (69 days) and its committees held 736 sessions. During the Third Term, 107 sessions (177 days) of the Senate and 2,519 sessions of its committees took place. The Senate of the Fourth Term held 90 sessions (188 days) and its committees held 2,000 sessions. During the Fifth Term, there were 88 sessions (175 days) of the Senate and 2,367 sessions of its committees. The Senate of the Sixth Term convened 39 sessions (75 days) and its committees met for 1,143 times. During the Seventh Term, the Senate held 83 sessions (173 days) and its committees held 3,101 sessions. The Eighth Term Senate convened 82 sessions (159 days) and its committees met for

TERM OF OFFICE OF THE SENATE	THE NUMBER OF ACTS CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE	THE NUMBER OF ACTS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY THE SENATE (THE NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS)	THE NUMBER OF ACTS WITH AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE SENATE WHICH WERE ACCEPTED BY THE SEJM (THE NUMBER OF ACCEPTED AMENDMENTS)
<b>First term 1989–1991</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>82</b> (1131)	<b>66</b> (611)
<b>Second term 1991–1993</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>47</b> (548)	<b>37</b> (265)
<b>Third term 1993–1997</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>208</b> (3121)	<b>195</b> (2057)
<b>Fourth term 1997–2001</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>372</b> (6612)	<b>344</b> (4795)
<b>Fifth term 2001–2005</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>495</b> (7176)	<b>479</b> (5953)
<b>Sixth term 2005–2007</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>175</b> (1839)	<b>159</b> (1498)
<b>Seventh term 2007–2011</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>472</b> (5408)	<b>447</b> (4652)
<b>Eighth term 2011–2015</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>284</b> (3365)	<b>258</b> (2882)
<b>Ninth term 2015–2019</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>208</b> (1936)	<b>203</b> (1855)

## Essential statistics about the Senate

2968 times. The Senate of the Ninth Term held 85 sessions (204 days) and its committees held 2786 sessions.

The Senate of the First Term put forward 27 legislative initiatives, 17 of which were adopted by the Sejm. There were 9 initiatives during the Second Term. The Sejm accepted 4 of them. The Senate of the Third Term presented 19 initiatives. 7 of them were accepted by the Sejm. During the Fourth Term – 27 initiatives were submitted, and the Sejm accepted 15. During the Fifth Term, the Senate put forward 26 initiatives, and the Sejm adopted 16. The Senate of the Sixth Term introduced 19 drafts, 3 of which were accepted by the Sejm. Since 2007, the Senate of the Seventh Term regularly submitted initiatives which were put forward to implement decisions of the Constitutional Tribunal (77 drafts). This is why there were as many as 124 initiatives of the Senate during that term of office. The Sejm adopted 78 of them. The Eighth Term Senate presented 103 initiatives (62 implementations of the Constitutional Court decisions), 74 of which were accepted by Sejm. The Senate of the Ninth Term introduced 55 drafts (27 implementations of the Constitutional Court decisions) and the Sejm accepted 36 of them.

### DATA CONCERNING THE SENATORS (as of the beginning of each term)

	FIRST TERM 1989-1991	SECOND TERM 1991-1993	THIRD TERM 1993-1997	FOURTH TERM 1997-2001	FIFTH TERM 2001-2005	SIXTH TERM 2005-2007	SEVENTH TERM 2007-2011	EIGHTH TERM 2011-2015	NINTH TERM 2015-2019
Average age*	54	49	50	51	56	53	52	56	56
The number of women	6	8	13	12	23	13	8	13	14
Senators with higher education	87	87	85	87	91	94	91	94	96
Senators with legal education	15	16	8	10	17	20	11	14	14
Professors	26	10	13	11	20	15	12	14	8
Professional senators**	35	35	80	90	85	83	80	79	77
Senators with local government-related experience***		13	14	30	27	56	68	68	75
Senators with previous parliamentary experience	4	32	31	42	56	34	56	72	68
Independent senators with no party affiliation	100	42	42	63	22	36	24	22	28

\* The average age over all terms was about 54 years. As set out in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, a person elected to the Senate must be at least 30 years old.

\*\* For the First and Second Term – data as of the start of the term, for other terms – data as of the end of the term.

\*\*\* The data cover the Second to Ninth terms. Since the Fifth Term, the office of senator has been incompatible with that of a councillor.

### MEMBERSHIP IN POLITICAL CLUBS

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

In the Senate of the Second Term, as many as twelve parliamentary clubs were established. They brought together between 22 (Parliamentary Club of Democratic Union) and 2 senators (Polish Peasant Party "Solidarity" Parliamentary Club). There were also other parliamentary clubs: of the National Christian Alliance (12 members), Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity" (11 senators), Central Accord (9 senators), Polish Peasant Party (9 senators), "Peasant Accord" (5 senators), Confederation for Independent Poland (4 senators), Democratic Left Alliance (4 senators), Christian Democrat's Party (3 senators), as well as the Independent Senators' Club (8 senators) and the Liberal Democratic Club (7 senators). Four senators did not belong to any club.

During the Third Term, the Democratic Left Alliance Parliamentary Club – Senators' Section and the Polish Peasant Party Parliamentary Club – Senators' Section had almost the same number of members (37 and 35 senators, respectively). The third and fourth largest clubs were the Senate Club of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity" (12 persons) and the Independent Senators' Club (7). The Senators' Democratic Club had 6 seven members, 1 senator belonged to Parliamentary Club of the Non-Party Bloc for the Support of Reforms, 1 – to Parliamentary Circle of German National Minority and 1 senator remained unaffiliated.

Senators' Club of the Solidarity Election Action was the largest club during the Fourth Term of the Senate (51 senators), followed by Democratic Left Alliance Parliamentary Club (28 senators) and the Senate's Democratic Club (8 senators). Five senators belonged to the Parliamentary Circle of the Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland. The Peasant Party and Independent Senators' Circle had 4 members and 4 senators did not belong to any club. During that term was also established the Parliamentary Circle of the Alternatywa.

At the beginning of the Fifth Term, there were two clubs in the Senate: the Senate's Club of the Democratic Left Alliance and the Union of Labour "The Left Together" (74 senators) and the Senators' Club of Bloc Senate 2001 (14 senators). In addition, there was the Circle of Peasant and Independent Senators (5 senators), the Parliamentary Club of the Self-Defence of the Republic of Poland (2 senators) and the Parliamentary Club of the League of Polish Families (2 senators). Two senators did not belong to any club. The following clubs and circles were also established during that term: the Senate Club of the Polish Socialdemocracy, Senators' Circle of the League of Polish Families, Senators' Circle of the Self-Defence of the Republic of Poland and the Circle of the Freedom Union which was subsequently transformed into the Circle of the demokraci.pl. Some senators also belonged to the Parliamentary Club – Civic Platform and the Parliamentary Club of Law and Justice.

At the beginning of the Senate of the Sixth Term, there existed the Parliamentary Club of the Law and Justice bringing together 50 senators, the Civic Platform Senators' Club (34 senators) and the Parliamentary Club of the League of Polish Families (7 senators). The Circle of Independent and People's Senators had 5 members, the Parliamentary Club of the Self-Defence of the Republic of Poland had 3 senators, the Parliamentary Club of the Polish People's Party had 2 senators and 1 senator did not belong to any club. During that term, the Senator's National Club and the Parliamentary Club of the National People's Movement were established and one senator joined the Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left Alliance.

In the Senate of the Seventh Term, there were initially two clubs: Civic Platform Senators' Club (59 senators) and Parliamentary Club of the Law and Justice (38 senators). 3 senators did not belong to any club. During that term, senators also belonged to the Deputies' Club of the Polish People's Party, the Parliamentary Club "Poland Comes First" and the Senate Group "Citizens to the Senate".

## *Essential statistics about the Senate*

At the beginning of the Eighth Term Senate senators belonged to parliamentary clubs: The Civic Platform – senators group (63 members), the Law and Justice (29 senators), The Polish People’s Party (2 senators), the Solidary Poland (2 senators) and to the Independent Senators’ Group (4 members). During that term one senator became a member of the United Right Parliamentary Club and 3 senators were non-attached.

At the beginning of the Senate of the Ninth Term senators belonged to parliamentary clubs: the Law and Justice (62 members), the Civic Platform – senators group (33 senators), the Polish People’s Party (1 person), 3 people were in the Independent Senators Group and 1 person was non-attached.

Senate Information Centre

