



Directorate-General for the Presidency
 Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Factsheet: The Polish Senate



1. At a glance

Re-established after the democratic transformations of 1989 the Senate consists of 100 senators elected for 4 years by direct universal suffrage, by secret ballot, in single-member constituencies.

In accordance with article 10 (2) and article 95 of the Constitution of 2 April 1997, the legislative power is exercised by the Sejm and the Senate. In specific cases, both chambers may have joint sessions as the National Assembly.



The Chamber has the right to initiate legislation. The Senate examines bills passed by the Sejm within 30 days of their submission, unless a bill is urgent, in which case it is examined within 14 days. The Senate may accept, amend or reject a bill passed by the Sejm. The Senate's resolution to reject or amend a bill is deemed accepted when it is not overruled by the Sejm by an absolute majority of votes in the presence of at least half the statutory number of deputies.

Parliamentary elections to both the Sejm and Senate were held in Poland on 25 October 2015. The opposition party, Law and Justice (PiS) won the election with 37.58% of the vote against the governing Civic Platform, who gained a 24.09% share. For the first a party won the absolute majority also thanks to the electoral system. Also for the first time there is no party from the left in Parliament. Beata Szydło from PiS has become the new Prime Minister, succeeding Ewa Kopacz from PO. Since December 2017 Mateusz Morawiecki from PiS became the new Prime Minister. Next elections are to be scheduled for October 2019 at latest.

2. Composition

Summary of the 25 October 2015 parliamentary election results							
Parties	Sejm				Senate		
	Votes	%	±%	Seats	±	Seats	±
Law and Justice (<i>Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, PiS</i>)	5,711,687	37.58	▲7.69	235 / 460	▲101	61 / 100	▲30
Civic Platform (<i>Platforma Obywatelska, PO</i>)	3,661,474	24.09	▼15.09	138 / 460	▼59	34 / 100	▼29
Kukiz'15 (<i>K'15</i>)	1,339,094	8.81		42 / 460	▲42	—	
Modern (<i>Nowoczesna Ryszarda Petru, Nowoczesna</i>)	1,155,370	7.60		28 / 460	▲28	—	
United Left (<i>Zjednoczona Lewica</i>)	1,147,102	7.55	▼11.26	—	▼50	—	
Polish People's Party (<i>Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe, PSL</i>)	779,875	5.13	▼3.23	16 / 460	▼22	1 / 100	▼1
Coalition for the Renewal of the Republic - Liberty and Hope (<i>KORWiN</i>)	722,999	4.76		—	—	—	

3. Officeholders

<p>Marshal of the Senate</p>  <p>Stanisław Karczewski (PiS – Law and Justice)</p>	<p>Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and EU Affairs Committee</p>  <p>Marek Rocki (PO - Civic Platform)</p>
<p>Secretary General of the Polish Senate: Mr Jakub Kowalski</p>	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Polish MEPs in plenary sittings	n/a
Participation rights for Polish MEPs in committee meetings	n/a
Availability of videoconferencing system in the Polish Senate	No

5. Information links

- Official website: <http://www.senat.gov.pl/>
- [Rules of procedure in English](#)
- [List of committees](#)
- [Recent documents submitted by the Senate to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Information Office in Warsaw](#)

6. Contacts

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