

THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE A BASIC OVERVIEW

MEETING SITE: THE ALABAMA STATE HOUSE. LOCATED BEHIND THE STATE CAPITOL IN MONTGOMERY

The State House was renovated during the mid-1980's for use by the legislature during the restoration of the state capitol. The legislators liked the State House space (since each member was able to have an office)--- thus the legislature has remained in the State House. The legislative chambers in the capitol are now generally for ceremonial use. In the State House, the Senate chamber is on the seventh floor; the House of representatives chamber is on the fifth.

**MEETING SCHEDULE: ANNUAL SESSIONS:
BEGINS IN :**

**MARCH THE FIRST YEAR.
FEBRUARY IN SECOND AND THIRD YEARS.
JANUARY THE FOURTH YEAR.**

SESSIONS:

- **THIRTY DAYS IN A REGULAR SESSION.**
- **FLOOR SESSIONS GENERALLY TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.**
- **COMMITTEE MEETINGS USUALLY ON WEDNESDAYS.**

THE ANNUAL SESSION OFTEN LASTS INTO LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY SINCE THE LEGISLATURE TRADITIONALLY TAKES A BREAK DURING THE SPRING BREAK OF THE MAJORITY OF THE STATE'S SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

SPECIAL SESSIONS CAN BE CALLED BY THE GOVERNOR (MOST OFTEN ONE WEEK IN LENGTH) TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC TOPICS. MOST LEADERS PREFER TO AVOID SPECIAL SESSIONS SINCE THE COST CAN RUN TO \$400,000 PER WEEK.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 105

Republican:	42
Democrat:	63
Women:	10
African-Americans:	24

Speaker of the House: Seth Hammett (D)--Andalusia
Speaker Pro Tem: Demetrius C. Newton (D)--Birmingham

SENATE:	35
Democrat:	25
Republican:	10
Women:	3
African-Americans:	8

President of the Senate: Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley (D)--Montgomery
President Pro Tem: Lowell Barron (D) ---Fyffe

**This legislature and its officers were elected in 2002 for four year terms.
Next election in 2006.**