



Connecticut General Assembly At-A-Glance 2020-2021

Membership

The Senate: The Senate has 36 members, consisting of 24 Democrats, and 12 Republicans.

The House of Representatives: The House of Representatives has 151 members, consisting of 97 Democrats and 54 Republicans.

To find your legislators, click [HERE](#).

Connecticut General Assembly Leadership

House Leadership

Speaker of the House: [Joe Aresimowicz \(D\)](#)

Majority Leader: [Matthew Ritter \(D\)](#)

Minority Leader: [Themis Klarides \(R\)](#)

Senate Leadership

President Pro Tempore: [Martin Looney \(D\)](#)

Majority Leader: [Bob Duff \(D\)](#)

Minority Leader: [Len Fasano \(R\)](#)

Connecticut Congressional Representation

House of Representatives

[John Larson \(D-CT-1\)](#)

[Joe Courtney \(D-CT-2\)](#)

[Rosa L. DeLauro \(D-CT-3\)](#)

[Jim Himes \(D-CT-4\)](#)

[Jahana Hayes \(D-CT-5\)](#)

Senate

[Richard Blumenthal \(D-CT\)](#)

[Chris Murphy \(D-CT\)](#)

Connecticut State Executive Offices

Governor: [Ned Lamont](#)

Lieutenant Governor: [Susan Bysiewicz](#)

Secretary of State: [Denise Merrill](#)

Treasurer: [Shawn Wooden](#)

Comptroller: [Kevin Lembo](#)

Attorney General: [William Tong](#)

Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: [Katie Dykes](#)

Commissioner, Department of Agriculture: [Bryan Hurlburt](#)

CGA Regular Session

The 2021 Regular Session convenes January 6th, 2021 and adjourns June 9th, 2021.

Odd-numbered years: The session begins on the Wednesday after the first Monday in January and ends no later than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in June.

Even-numbered years: The session begins on the Wednesday after the first Monday in February and ends no later than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in May. The proceedings solely cover budgetary, revenue, and other fiscal matters; legislation and resolutions brought forward by General Assembly committees; and matters deemed by the speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate as emergencies.

Special Sessions: The Governor or a majority of the members from each chamber may call a special session of the General Assembly. Veto or “Trailer” Session: If the governor vetoes any bills after the session ends, the Secretary of the State will call a legislative session to consider whether to override the veto.

Relevant Committees for Land Conservation

All committees of the General Assembly are joint committees and as such consist of both senators and representatives. There are 27 committees in total, which are tasked with drafting, reviewing and reporting on bills and resolutions that fall within their respective jurisdictions. Committees operate regardless of whether the General Assembly is in session or not. The committees, their leadership, and office locations that are most impactful to land conservation in Connecticut are as follows:

- **Appropriations:** *Co-Chairs:* Sen. Cathy Osten & Rep. Toni Walker; *Vice Chairs:* Sen. Joan Hartley, Rep. Lucy Dathan, & Rep. Anthony L. Nolan; *Ranking Members:* Sen. Craig Miner & Rep. Mike France.
 - **Subcommittee on Conservation and Development:** *Co-Chairs:* Sen. Joan Hartley & Rep. Bobby Gibson; *Ranking Members:* Sen. Heather Somers & Rep. Charles Ferraro
 - **Public hearing testimony:** apptestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **Energy and Technology:** *Co-Chairs:* Sen. Norman Needleman & Rep. David Arconti; *Vice Chairs:* Sen. Gary A. Winfield & Rep. Raghbir Allie-Brennan; *Ranking Members:* Sen. Paul Formica & Rep. Charles Ferraro.
 - **Public hearing testimony:** ettestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **Environment:** *Co-Chairs:* Sen. Christine Cohen & Rep. Joseph P. Gresko; *Vice Chairs:* Sen. Derek Slap & Rep. Christine Palm; *Ranking Members:* Sen. Craig Miner & Rep. Stephen G. Harding.
 - **Public hearing testimony:** envtestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **Planning & Development:** *Co-Chairs:* Sen. Steve Cassano & Sen. Cristin McCarthy Vahey; *Vice Chairs:* Sen. Norman Needleman & Rep. Christine Goupil; *Ranking Members:* Sen. Tony Hwang & Rep. Joseph H. Zullo.
 - **Public hearing testimony:** pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov

The Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. Introduction: The Proposed Bill is sent to the clerk of the chamber of the legislation's sponsor for numbering. Information about the bill, including its title, number and sponsors, is printed in the House and Senate Journals.

2. Committee Review: The bill is sent to the appropriate committee(s) for review depending on the subject matter. Committees may: Draft the bill in legal language; combine it with other pending legislation as part of a larger committee bill; refer the bill to another committee; or take no action and in turn, the bill fails. The committee may also write their own bill based on the ideas of the proposed legislation; this is known as a "raised bill." Public hearings are held by the Committee, providing an opportunity for the public, state agency representatives and legislators to submit testimony on any of the bills under consideration. Based on their findings and the feedback received during the public hearing, the Committee may report the bill favorably, reject the bill or take no action (in which case, the bill fails). A bill requiring action by another committee is then referred to that committee.

3. Legislative Commissioners' Office: After leaving all relevant committees, the bill is sent to the Legislative Commissioners' Office for review to ensure to the legislation is both constitutional and consistent with existing laws.

4. Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) and Office of Legislative Research (OLR): OFA estimates the fiscal impact of the bill. OLR provides a "plain English" summarization of the bill.

5. Calendar: The Clerk assigns the bill a calendar number.

6. To the Floor: Legislators from the chamber of origin (i.e. the House or the Senate) debate, draft amendments, and potentially send the bill to another committee before voting on the bill. If passed, the bill is then sent to the second chamber for consideration. If the second chamber makes any amendments, the bill is returned to the first chamber for approval.

- If both chambers cannot reach an agreement, the bill is sent to a joint conference committee. If the conference committee reaches an agreement, a report is sent to both chambers for review. If one or both chambers reject the changes, the bill fails.

7. To the Governor: If both chambers pass the bill, it is sent to the governor who may: sign the bill; veto it; or take no action. If they veto the bill, it's returned to the chamber from which it originated, as vetoed bills can be reconsidered by both chambers.

The bill becomes law if: The governor signs it; the governor fails to sign the bill within 5 days during the legislative session or 15 days after its conclusion; or the vetoed bill is passed again in each chamber by a 2/3 vote.

For more information:

Visit the Connecticut General Assembly website: <https://cga.ct.gov/>

Contact CLCC Executive Director Amy Blaymore Paterson at abpaterson@ctconservation.org