



Arizona's Legislature

Legislative Structure

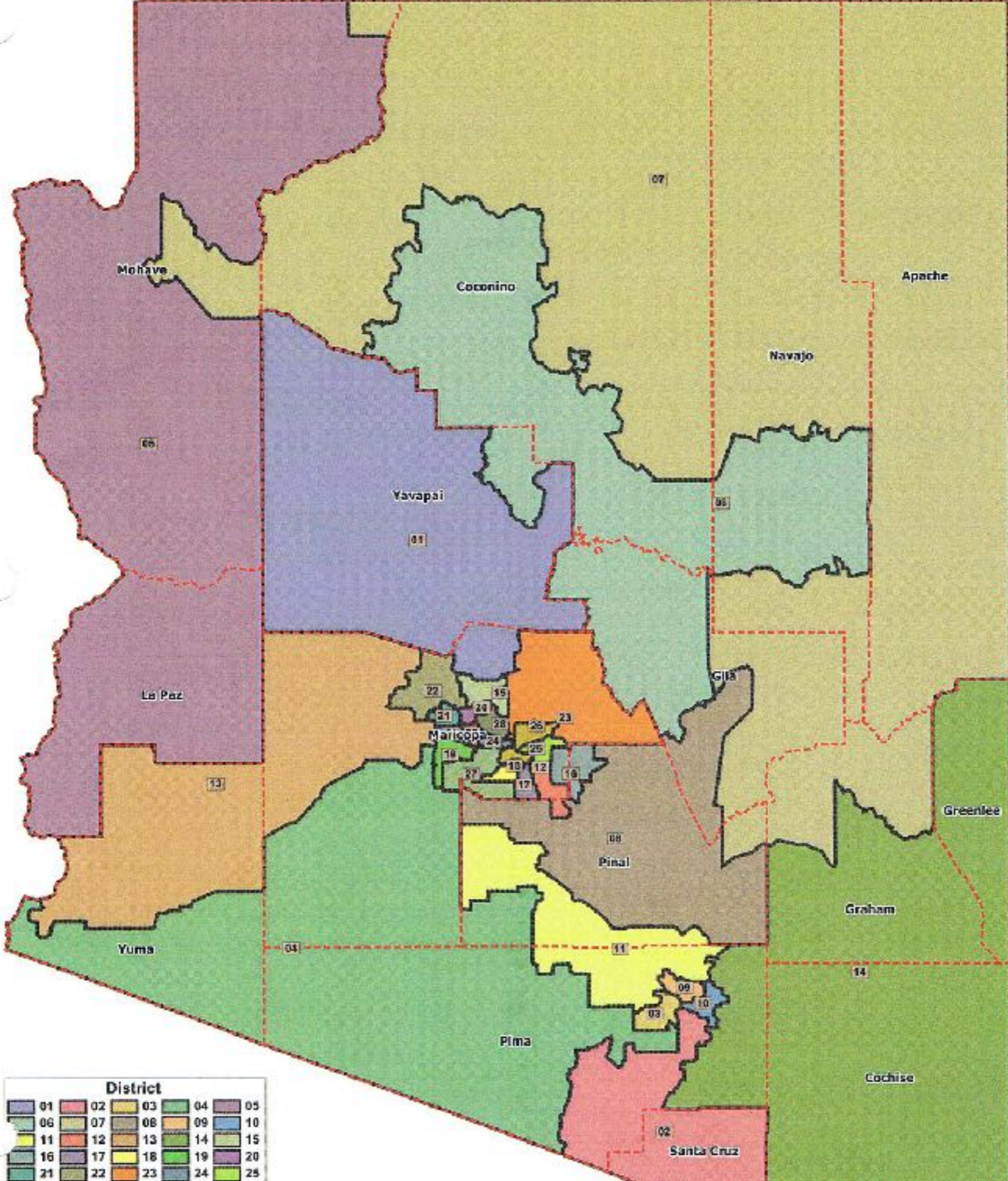
- ✦ Is a collective decision making body
- ✦ Representative Body
- ✦ Bicameral
- ✦ Representative Democracy

Length of Terms

- ✦ All legislators have simultaneous two-year terms
- ✦ How does this impact the legislature?
- ✦ Elections happen in November of every even-numbered year
- ✦ No legislator may serve more than four consecutive terms

Districts

- ✦ State senators and representatives are elected from 30 equally populated legislative districts
- ✦ Each district has 1 senator and 2 representatives
- ✦ Redistricting and its impact
- ✦ Gerrymandering and its impact
- ✦ Fracturing and packing



District

01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	

Fracturing vs. Packing

- ✦ Fracturing: splitting the opposition into multiple districts to dilute its voting strength
- ✦ Packing: confining the opposition to a few super-strong districts that waste votes and simultaneously remove the opposition from many more surrounding districts.

Qualifications

- ✦ 25 years old
- ✦ U.S. Citizens
- ✦ Arizona resident for 3 years
- ✦ County resident for 1 year
- ✦ Registered voter
- ✦ English proficient

Pay

- Currently legislators are paid \$24,000 dollars
- Legislators outside Maricopa County are paid a per diem of \$60, inside Maricopa County are paid \$35 per day
- By comparison:
 - • California: \$113,098.
 - • New York: \$79,500.
 - • Illinois: \$57,619.
 - • Colorado: \$30,000.
- Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/election/legislature/articles/2008/10/20/20081020payraise1020.html#ixzz0n4Y3g6y8>

Regular Sessions

- ✦ Annual meetings are called regular sessions
- ✦ Beginning on the second Monday in January and last until late April. Roughly around 100 days

Special Sessions

- ✦ Emergency situations require legislative action are considered special sessions
- ✦ Can be initiated by the governor or the legislature
- ✦ If the governor initiates the session they can only enact legislation on the specific subjects mentioned in the governor's call
- ✦ If the legislature initiates then there are no restrictions, 2/3 of the members of each house

How a bill becomes a law in Arizona

- ✦ Introduced by one or more members of either house
- ✦ Assigned a number and sent to a committee
- ✦ Sent to the Committee of the Whole for debate and vote
- ✦ Read in sections on 3 different days
- ✦ Must pass a majority vote in one house before moving to the other
- ✦ Process repeats in the new house

How a bill becomes a law in Arizona

- ✦ Bill must be approved by originating house, or sent to a conference committee of both houses to reconcile
- ✦ The governor may sign the bill, veto, or take no action
- ✦ Congress needs a 2/3 majority to override a veto

Ways for the citizens to change or create laws.

- ✦ Initiative- requires 10% of qualified voters, must be filed with the Secretary of State 4 months before the election
- ✦ Referendum- requires 5% of qualified voters, must be filed with the Secretary of State 90 days after the legislative session
- ✦ Recall- requires 15% of qualified voters, must be file with the Secretary of State 4 months before the election

Ways for the citizens to change or create laws.

- ✦ If passed by the voters Initiatives and Amendments cannot be vetoed by the governor and the Legislature cannot repeal the law
- ✦ Legislature may amend the law with a 3/4 vote in each house, “as long as the intent of the law is maintained.”
- ✦ Legislature may not appropriate or divert funds included in an initiative or referendum.