

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE 101

2019-2020

The ACLU of Massachusetts works in the state legislature to pass laws that will protect and expand our civil liberties.

THE BASICS

The Massachusetts legislature is made up of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Every resident is represented by one state senator and one state representative. That means there are a total of 40 senators and 160 representatives.

You can find your legislators here: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

The House and Senate leadership set the tone and agenda for the legislative session.

Senate President Karen Spilka
Ashland (D) | @KarenSpilka

Senate Majority Leader Cynthia Creem
Newton (D) | @cindycreem

Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr
Gloucester (R) | @SenBruceTarr

Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo
Winthrop (D) | @SpeakerDeLeo

House Majority Leader Ronald Mariano
Quincy (D) | @RonMariano

House Minority Leader Bradley Jones
North Reading (R) | @RepBradJones

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Massachusetts has a two year legislative session. The current session began in January 2019.

At the beginning of each session, bills are filed and assigned to a committee.

The committees hold hearings and decide whether the bills will be voted on by the whole chamber (“floor vote”).

KEY DATES

Dates to remember:

January 1, 2019
Formal session begins

February 5, 2020
Deadline to move bills out of first committee

July 31, 2020
Last day of formal sessions

TAKE ACTION

Fight for the future of freedom with the ACLU of Massachusetts.

Learn about our legislative priorities:
aclum.org/legislative

Volunteer with the ACLU of Massachusetts:
aclum.org/volunteer

Sign up for emails and action alerts:
aclum.org/updates