

Session

The time period the General Assembly meets to conduct business.



Symbol

A sign or object that stands for something else.



Tax

The money that you have to pay to the government so that it can provide public services.

Tradition

A custom or belief that happens over a long period of time.

Veto

To not approve or reject a bill.

Vote

An expression of your choice, usually by raising your hand or writing on a piece of paper.



Arkansas General Assembly Glossary

The words we use to describe public service may not be in every text book, but knowing the terms will help you better understand the legislative process and your community.

Understanding the legislative terms will help with understanding the branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, and even your role as an Arkansas resident.

Laws are passed every year and every Arkansan is affected by these laws. Understanding our laws will help with understanding your nation, your state, your community.



Adjournment

Termination of a Session for that day, with the hour and day of the next meeting being set prior to adjournment.

Adjournment Sine Die

The final adjournment of a legislative Session.

Amend

To change the wording by inserting and/or removing text of a bill, constitution.



Amendment

A change to legislation in committee or on the chamber floor that adds to, revises, or deletes language from the legislation.

Biennium

A two –year term of legislative activity, usually used in association with the budget.

Bill

An idea or plan for a possible new law.



Branches of Government

The three distinct sections of government: executive, legislative, and judicial.

Calendar

A list of days and months of a particular year. The General Assembly meets annually, starting on the second Monday in January, for 60 days in even-numbered years and 30 days in odd-numbered years.



Capital

The city where the government of a state is located.



Capitol

The building where a state's government meets.



Caucus

An informal meeting of a group of members, most often called on the basis of party affiliation or regional representation.

Citizen

A member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.

Committee

A group of legislators from the House of Representatives or the Senate organized for the purpose of considering deciding on the disposition of legislation.

Constituent

A person who is represented by an elected official.

Constitution

An official document that establishes the basic principles of government.



Fiscal Year

A 12-month accounting period used in the State budget.



Floor

The portion of the chamber reserved for members, staff, and other persons granted access during the Session.

Gallery

Balconies of each chamber from which visitors may view the proceedings

General Assembly

The legislative branch of Arkansas government that makes state laws. The General Assembly consists of the House of Representative and the Senate.



Government

A representative group of people who make rules and laws, carry out rules and laws carries out rules and laws, and decides if rules and laws have been broken.

Governor

A person who is the state's top elected official and is the head of the executive branch of government.

Law

Rules people live by.



Legislator

An elected member of a legislative body who acts for or represents others.

Lobbyist

A person who represents a particular interest or group of interests before the General Assembly.

Population

Number of people living in a community.

Rules

What people must or must not do.