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THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

Assembly

* The California Assembly has 80 members, each representing a district
* Each member represents at least 465,000 people.
* Oceanside, Carlsbad and Vista are in District 76
* Members elected to the Legislature prior to 2012 are restricted by term limits to three two-year terms (six years), while those elected in or after 2012 are allowed to serve 12 years in the legislature in any combination of four-year State Senate or two-year State Assembly terms
* The Assembly is presided over by the Speaker or a designated member.
* Legislative authority and responsibilities of the **California** State **Assembly** include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

Senate

* The Senate is comprised of 40 members, each representing a district
* Oceanside, Carlsbad and Vista are in District 36
* Members serve staggered four-year terms.
* The President pro Tempore is the chief officer of the Senate.
* The Senate works alongside the governor of **California** to create laws and establish a **state** budget.

Standing Committees

* To give adequate consideration to the more than 4,500 bills introduced each two-year session, the Legislature does most of its work in committees.
* Each committee has responsibility for a specific area of policy (education, health, etc.).
* A typical committee hearing will involve the author's presentation of his or her bill and testimony by interested groups and citizens.