

Senate Chamber



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The Iowa Senate Chamber, located on the second floor of the Capitol, was dedicated in 1884. There are 50 members in the Senate.

The legislators use this chamber during each session of the Iowa General Assembly. Each General Assembly consists of two consecutive sessions—one session each year—for two years. Every session begins on the second Monday in January, extending approximately 100 days in even-numbered years, and 110 days in odd-numbered years. The months between the sessions are referred to as the “interim” period. Each senator holds a four-year term, and must run for reelection if desiring to continue to serve in the Senate, alternating reelection years between those representing even-numbered or odd-numbered districts.

The two legislative chambers and the State Law Library were the first rooms to be completed in the Capitol. It was important to prioritize the completion of these second-floor rooms so legislative business could commence at the Capitol.

The Senate Chamber has undergone few changes since first constructed. The ceilings in the Senate Chamber are beautifully painted. The chandeliers, imported from France, are original and were equipped with gas lines. They are made of handcrafted brass and each weighs 500 pounds. The desks used by senators during the legislative session are original.

