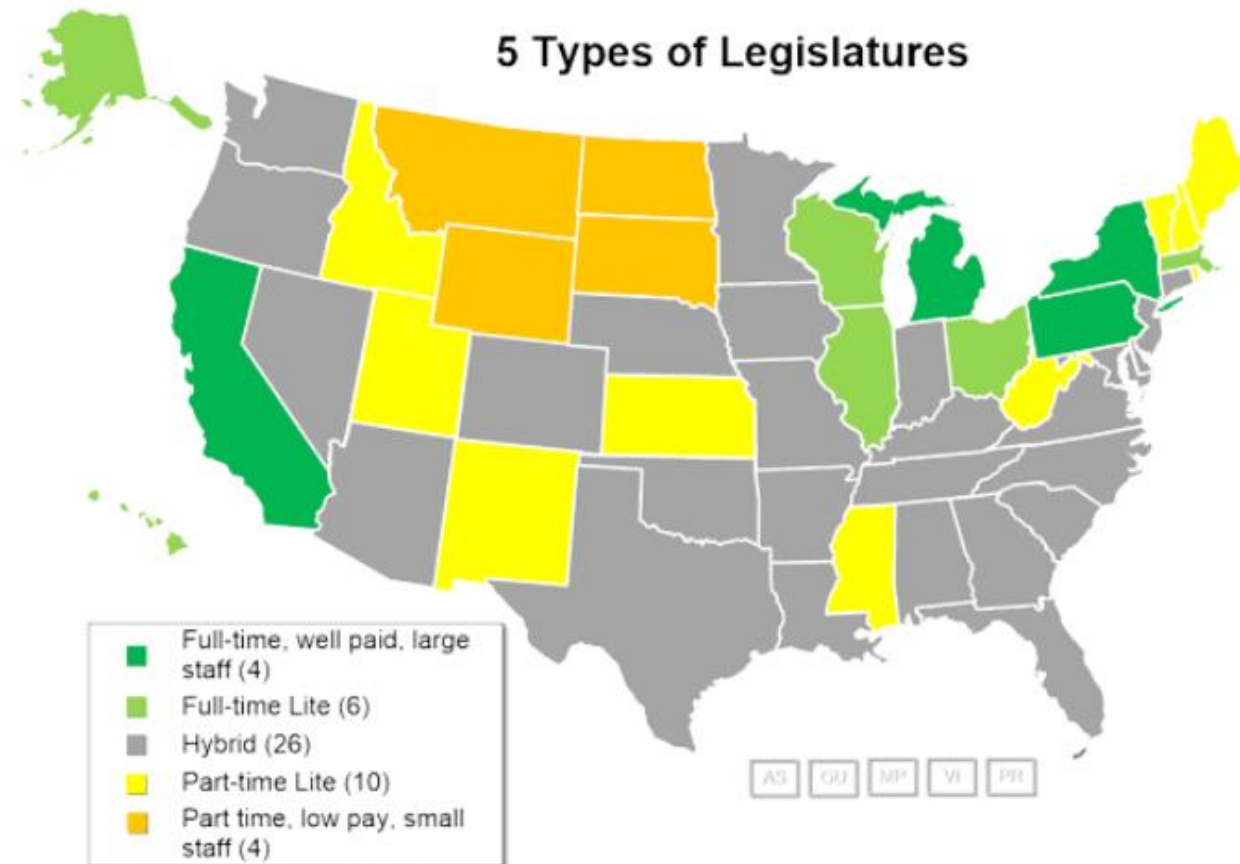


Overview of Legislative Staff and Staffing Structures

Josalyn Williams
Policy Specialist



A Framework for Categorizing Legislatures



Legislative Compensation

- Salary
- Per Diem and mileage
- Additional compensation for Senate and House/Assembly leaders
- Office and staffing
- Insurance benefits
- Retirement benefits



Session Length and Time on the Job

11 states do not place a limit on session length.

Recent trend is towards shortening session length.

Average session length is 120 days

Self Reported Time on the Job (2014):

Full Time: 84%

Hybrid: 74%

Part Time: 54%

Arkansas	Odd-60 C Even-30 C
Kentucky	Odd-30 L or Mar 30 Even-60 L or Apr 15
New Mexico	Odd-60 C Even-30 C
Virginia	Odd-30 C Even-60 C
Wyoming	Odd-40 L Even-20 L

Useful Definitions

Legislative Staff	A staff member employed by a state legislature. This includes both non-partisan and partisan staff.
Nonpartisan Staff	Legislative staff that serve members of all political parties in the legislature or in a chamber.
Partisan Staff	Legislative staff that provide service to a political caucus staff, for a legislative leader, for an individual member at the capitol or in a district office.
→Leadership Staff	Legislative staff that work directly for a legislative leader or in a legislative leader’s office. Typically considered a partisan staff position.
→Caucus Staff	Legislative staff that work, as a group, for the members of a political party.
→Personal Staff	Legislative staff that work directly for a state legislator. Their workplace might be located at the Capitol or at a district office. In most cases, these staff are considered to be partisan due to the nature of their work and relationship with the legislature.

Legislative Staff Roles

Legal Counsel, Bill
Drafters and
Editors

Fiscal Analysts and
Economists

Committee and
Research Staff

Press Secretaries
and
Communication
Directors

Chief Information
Officers and
Program
Developers

Clerks and
Secretaries/
Parliamentarians

Leadership and
Caucus Staff

Security/Sergeant-
at-Arms and
Services

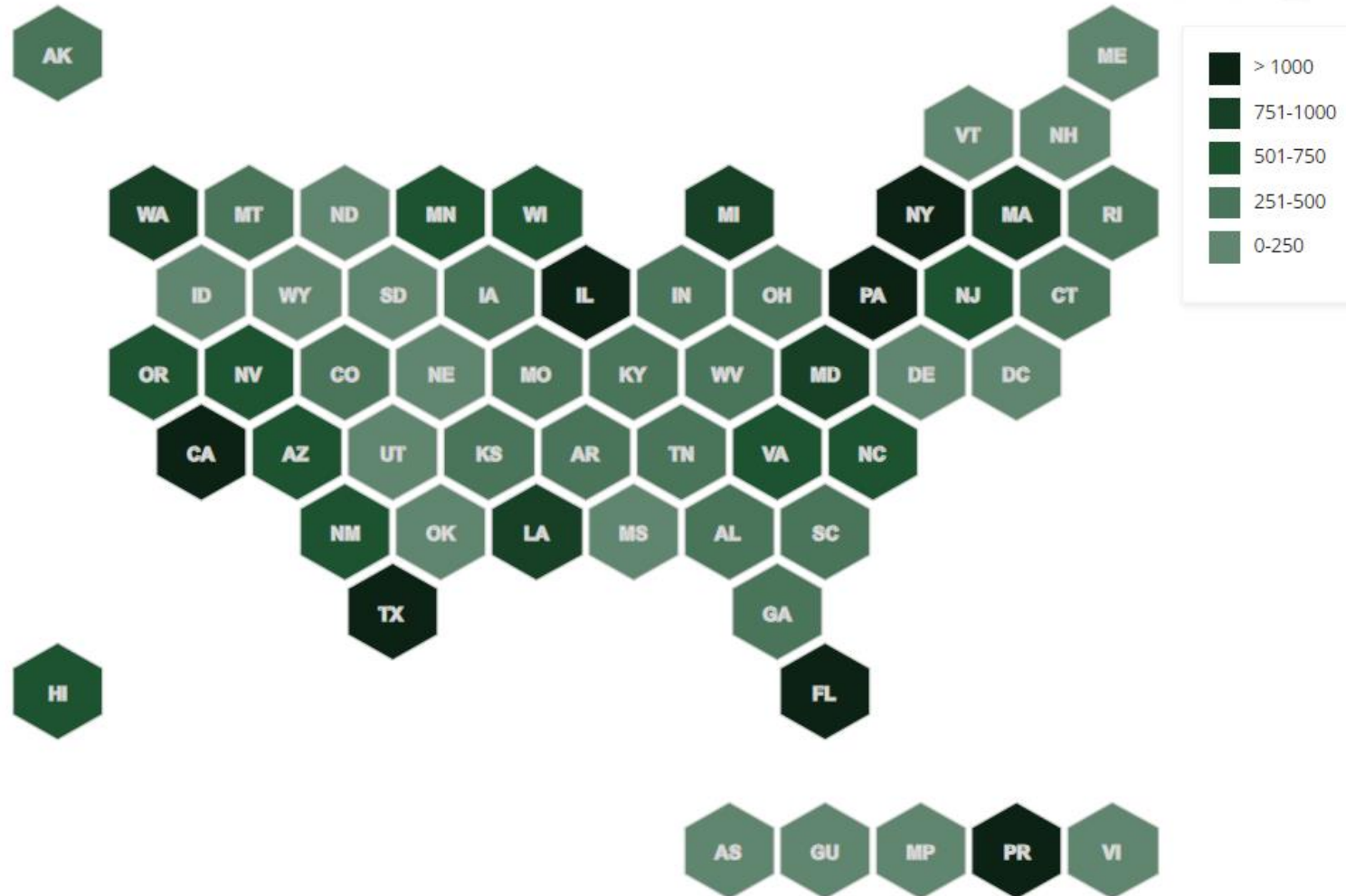
Legislative
Research Librarians

Program Evaluators
and
Methodologists

Human Resource
Professionals

Legislative Aides or
Assistants

Size of Legislative Staff (2021)



Examples of Staffing Structures



IDAHO

One centralized nonpartisan staff agency

Nonpartisan chamber staff

Leadership Aides to Majority and Minority

TEXAS

Five centralized nonpartisan staff agencies

Nonpartisan chamber staff

Leadership staff

Personal staff to the members

COLORADO

Four centralized nonpartisan staff agencies

Nonpartisan chamber staff

Leadership and Caucus staff

Personal staff to the members

KANSAS

Five centralized nonpartisan staff agencies

Nonpartisan chamber staff

Leadership staff

UTAH

Four centralized nonpartisan staff agencies

Nonpartisan chamber staff

Leadership and caucus staff

Examples of Fiscal Office Staffing Structures



ARIZONA JOINT
LEGISLATIVE
BUDGET
COMMITTEE
A director
17 analysts



WISCONSIN
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL
BUREAU
A director
25 analysts
Administrative staff



COLORADO JOINT
BUDGET
COMMITTEE
A director
15 analysts
Administrative Staff



NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE
BUDGET ASSISTANT
Two divisions with
two heads.
30 people between
2 divisions.



UTAH OFFICE OF
THE FISCAL
ANALYST
A director
15 analysts
Support staff

Legislative staffing needs vary from state to state.

There are several different types of legislative staff.

NCSL research finds “full time” legislatures have larger staff sizes than “part-time” and “hybrid” legislatures.

Thank You.

Any Questions?

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