

## Legislative Organizational Sessions

Time is a scarce resource in legislative operations. From the initial stages of the legislative cycle, time management has a rippling effect. Early organization of the legislature may lead to more efficient use of its session days, especially at the beginning of sessions. Some states believe that pre-session organization helps preserve short sessions and part-time schedules.

Table 00-2.37 indicates that 80 chambers hold organizational sessions or caucuses. The following 12 chambers do not hold organizational sessions.

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Iowa House                | New Mexico House       |
| Maryland Senate and House | North Carolina House   |
| Massachusetts Senate      | South Carolina Senate  |
| Minnesota Senate          | Texas Senate and House |
| Nebraska Senate           | Virginia Senate        |

In 55 chambers, the organizational session is for the full body. The political caucuses in 40 legislative bodies hold organizational caucuses for their members.

***How are organizational sessions determined?*** Many organizational sessions are required by constitution, statute or rule, but several are held by chamber or caucus tradition. Most organizational sessions held for the full body are required by one of these written documents and, therefore, usually are not optional. The caucuses, on the other hand, generally hold their organizational sessions by choice, based on tradition.

*For the full body.* Most organizational sessions for the full body are required by constitution (see table 00-2.38). The organizational session is set by statute in 15 legislative assemblies and by chamber rule in 15 legislative bodies. In only four chambers—Arkansas Senate, Illinois House, New Mexico Senate and North Carolina Senate—does the body organize by chamber tradition.

*For each caucus.* Most caucus-held organizational sessions are established by caucus tradition (see table 00-2.39). In the Colorado Senate, Hawaii Senate and House, Maine House, Michigan House, Minnesota House, New Hampshire House, Ohio Senate and Wisconsin Assembly, chamber tradition provides the impetus. Very few organizational caucuses are required by statute or rule.

***When are organizational sessions held?*** An early organizational session helps ensure that procedures run smoothly and efficiently from the beginning. There are, however, many different times when an organizational session or caucus may be held.

*For the full body.* Table 00-2.40 shows that most organizational sessions for the full body are held on the opening day of session. Fifteen chambers organize during the first or second week of December. The Arkansas House, Florida Senate and House, Indiana Senate and House, and South Carolina House organize in November.

*For each caucus.* Mid- to late November is the most common time for organizational caucuses to take place (see table 00-2.41). In eight chambers, the political caucuses organize during the

first or second week of December. The political caucuses in the Illinois House gather the week prior to the opening of session, and in the Connecticut Senate and New York Assembly, they meet the day prior to the opening of session.

***What are organizational session activities?*** The aim of organizational activities is to save session time for the legislature. Some organizational session activities require a substantial amount of time, so they are better held earlier. For instance, new member orientation is an organizational activity that typically lasts for more than one day and usually is held before the opening day of session. This gives new members more time to adjust to their new position.

*For the full body.* Table 00-2.42 illustrates the activities that most commonly occur during an organizational session for the full body. These include:

- Swearing in members (50 chambers),
- Electing the presiding officer (52 chambers),
- Selecting other chamber officers—such as the clerk or secretary (52 chambers),
- Establishing committees (30 chambers), and
- Adopting chamber rules (53 chambers).

Other customary activities include selecting chamber seating and offices and holding new member orientation (see table 00-2.43). Eleven legislative bodies adopt their session schedule during the organizational session.

*For each caucus.* Organizational sessions held for the caucuses generally occur earlier than those held for the full body. There are two main organizational activities for the political caucuses. The caucuses in 47 chambers select their leaders at this time. Caucuses in 34 legislative assemblies also use this time to pick their nominees for presiding officer. Other activities that take place less frequently during organizational caucuses also are illustrated in table 00-2.44.

**Table 00-2.37 Organizational Sessions or Caucuses****The following chambers hold organizational sessions or caucuses.**

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama Senate                 | Montana Senate and House       |
| Alaska Senate and House        | Nevada Senate and Assembly     |
| Arizona Senate and House       | New Hampshire Senate and House |
| Arkansas Senate and House      | New Mexico Senate              |
| California Senate and Assembly | New York Assembly              |
| Colorado Senate and House      | North Carolina Senate          |
| Connecticut Senate and House   | North Dakota Senate and House  |
| Delaware House                 | Ohio Senate and House          |
| Florida Senate and House       | Oklahoma Senate and House      |
| Georgia Senate and House       | Oregon Senate and House        |
| Hawaii Senate and House        | Pennsylvania Senate and House  |
| Idaho Senate and House         | Rhode Island House             |
| Illinois Senate and House      | South Carolina House           |
| Indiana Senate and House       | South Dakota Senate and House  |
| Iowa Senate                    | Tennessee Senate and House     |
| Kansas Senate and House        | Utah Senate and House          |
| Kentucky Senate and House      | Vermont Senate                 |
| Louisiana Senate and House     | Virginia House                 |
| Maine Senate and House         | Washington Senate and House    |
| Massachusetts House            | West Virginia Senate and House |
| Michigan Senate and House      | Wisconsin Senate and House     |
| Minnesota House                | Wyoming Senate and House       |
| Mississippi House              | District of Columbia Council   |
| Missouri Senate and House      |                                |

**The following chambers do not hold organizational sessions or caucuses.**

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Iowa House                | New Mexico House       |
| Maryland Senate and House | North Carolina House   |
| Massachusetts Senate      | South Carolina Senate  |
| Minnesota Senate          | Texas Senate and House |
| Nebraska Senate           | Virginia Senate        |

**Table 00-2.38 Organizational Sessions for the Full Body**

| <b>State (1)</b> | <b>Required by constitution</b> | <b>Required by statute</b> | <b>Required by rule</b> | <b>Not required, but held by chamber tradition</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Alabama          | S                               |                            |                         |  |
| Alaska           |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Arizona          |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Arkansas         |                                 |                            | H                       | S  |
| California       | B                               | H                          | H                       |  |
| Colorado         |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Connecticut      |                                 | B                          | B                       |  |
| Delaware         |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Florida          | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| Georgia          | H                               |                            |                         |  |
| Hawaii           |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Idaho            |                                 | B                          | H                       |  |
| Illinois         | S                               |                            | S                       | H  |
| Indiana          | H                               | S                          |                         |  |
| Iowa             |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Kansas           |                                 | B                          |                         |  |
| Kentucky         | S                               |                            | H                       |  |
| Louisiana        | B                               |                            | H                       |  |
| Maine            | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| Maryland         |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Massachusetts    | H                               | H                          |                         |  |
| Michigan         | H                               |                            | B                       |  |
| Minnesota        | H                               | H                          | H                       |  |
| Mississippi      |                                 | H                          |                         |  |
| Missouri         |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Montana          |                                 |                            |                         |  |

**Table 00-2.38 Organizational Sessions for the Full Body, cont'd.**

| <b>State (1)</b>     | <b>Required by constitution</b> | <b>Required by statute</b> | <b>Required by rule</b> | <b>Not required, but held by chamber tradition</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Nebraska             |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Nevada               |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| New Hampshire        | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| New Jersey           |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| New Mexico           |                                 |                            |                         | S  |
| New York             | H                               |                            | H                       |  |
| North Carolina       |                                 |                            |                         | S  |
| North Dakota         | B                               | B                          |                         |  |
| Ohio                 | B                               | S                          |                         |  |
| Oklahoma             | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| Oregon               | S                               |                            |                         |  |
| Pennsylvania         |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Rhode Island         |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| South Carolina       | H                               |                            |                         |  |
| South Dakota         | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| Tennessee            | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| Texas                |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Utah                 | H                               |                            | H                       |  |
| Vermont              |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Virginia             |                                 |                            |                         |  |
| Washington           | H                               |                            |                         |  |
| West Virginia        | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| Wisconsin            | S                               | H                          | H                       |  |
| Wyoming              | B                               |                            |                         |  |
| District of Columbia |                                 |                            | S                       |  |

**Table 00-2.38 Organizational Sessions for the Full Body, cont'd.**

## Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

## Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.

**Table 00-2.39 Organizational Sessions for Political Caucuses**

| State (1)     | Required by statute | Required by rule | Not required, but held by chamber tradition | Not required, but held by caucus tradition | Other |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|---|--|-------|
| Alabama       |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Alaska        |                     |                  |   | B  |       |
| Arizona       |                     |                  |   | B  |       |
| Arkansas      |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| California    |                     | H                |   |  |       |
| Colorado      |                     |                  | S   | H  |       |
| Connecticut   |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Delaware      |                     |                  |   | H  |       |
| Florida       |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Georgia       |                     |                  |   | H  | 2     |
| Hawaii        |                     |                  | B   |  |       |
| Idaho         |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Illinois      |                     |                  |   | H  |       |
| Indiana       |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Iowa          |                     |                  |   | S  |       |
| Kansas        | B                   |                  |   |  |       |
| Kentucky      |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Louisiana     |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Maine         |                     |                  | H   |  |       |
| Maryland      |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Massachusetts |                     |                  |   | H  |       |
| Michigan      |                     | S                | H   |  |       |
| Minnesota     |                     |                  | H   | H  |       |
| Mississippi   |                     |                  |   |  |       |
| Missouri      |                     |                  |   | B  |       |
| Montana       | B                   |                  |   |  |       |

**Table 00-2.39 Organizational Sessions for Political Caucuses, cont'd.**

| <b>State (1)</b>     | <b>Required by statute</b> | <b>Required by rule</b> | <b>Not required, but held by chamber tradition</b> | <b>Not required, but held by caucus tradition</b> | <b>Other</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| Nebraska             |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Nevada               |                            |                         |  | B   |              |
| New Hampshire        |                            |                         | H  | H   |              |
| New Jersey           |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| New Mexico           |                            |                         |  | S   |              |
| New York             |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| North Carolina       |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| North Dakota         |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Ohio                 |                            |                         | S  | H   |              |
| Oklahoma             |                            | H                       |  |   |              |
| Oregon               |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Pennsylvania         | S                          |                         |  | B   |              |
| Rhode Island         |                            |                         |  | H   |              |
| South Carolina       |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| South Dakota         |                            |                         |  | B   |              |
| Tennessee            |                            |                         |  | S   |              |
| Texas                |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Utah                 |                            |                         |  | S   |              |
| Vermont              |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Virginia             |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Washington           |                            |                         |  | S   |              |
| West Virginia        |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| Wisconsin            |                            |                         | H  |   |              |
| Wyoming              |                            |                         |  |   |              |
| District of Columbia |                            |                         |  |   |              |



**Table 00-2.39 Organizational Sessions for Political Caucuses, cont'd.**

## Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

## Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Georgia: In the Senate, the organizational session held by each political caucus is required by caucus bylaws.

**Table 00-2.40 When Organizational Sessions Are Held for the Full Body**

| State (1)     | Mid- to late November | First or second week in December | Day prior to the opening of session | The opening day of session | Other |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Alabama       |                       |                                  |                                     |                            | 2     |
| Alaska        |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Arizona       |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Arkansas      |                       | S                                |                                     |                            | 3     |
| California    |                       | B                                |                                     | B                          |       |
| Colorado      |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Connecticut   |                       |                                  | S                                   | H                          |       |
| Delaware      |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Florida       | B                     |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Georgia       |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          |       |
| Hawaii        |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Idaho         |                       | B                                |                                     |                            |       |
| Illinois      |                       |                                  |                                     | S                          |       |
| Indiana       | B                     |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Iowa          |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Kansas        |                       | B                                |                                     |                            |       |
| Kentucky      |                       |                                  |                                     |                            | 4     |
| Louisiana     |                       |                                  |                                     |                            | 5     |
| Maine         |                       | B                                |                                     |                            |       |
| Maryland      |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Massachusetts |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          |       |
| Michigan      |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| Minnesota     |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          |       |
| Mississippi   |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          |       |
| Missouri      |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Montana       |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |

**Table 00-2.40 When Organizational Sessions Are Held for the Full Body, cont'd.**

|                      | Mid- to late November | First or second week in December | Day prior to the opening of session | The opening day of session | Other |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| <b>State (1)</b>     |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Nebraska             |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Nevada               |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| New Hampshire        |                       | B                                |                                     |                            |       |
| New Jersey           |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| New Mexico           |                       |                                  |                                     | S                          |       |
| New York             |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          |       |
| North Carolina       |                       |                                  |                                     | S                          |       |
| North Dakota         |                       | B                                |                                     |                            |       |
| Ohio                 |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| Oklahoma             |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          | 6     |
| Oregon               |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| Pennsylvania         |                       |                                  |                                     | S                          |       |
| Rhode Island         |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| South Carolina       | H                     | H                                |                                     |                            |       |
| South Dakota         |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| Tennessee            |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| Texas                |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Utah                 |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Vermont              |                       |                                  |                                     | S                          |       |
| Virginia             |                       |                                  |                                     |                            |       |
| Washington           |                       |                                  |                                     | H                          |       |
| West Virginia        |                       | H                                |                                     | S                          |       |
| Wisconsin            |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| Wyoming              |                       |                                  |                                     | B                          |       |
| District of Columbia |                       |                                  |                                     | S                          |       |

**Table 00-2.40 When Organizational Sessions Are Held for the Full Body, cont'd.**

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama: In the Senate, the organizational session is held the second Tuesday in January following the election.
3. Arkansas: In the House, the organizational session is held the Friday following the general election.
4. Kentucky: In the Senate and House, the organizational session is held the first week in January of odd-numbered years.
5. Louisiana: In the Senate and House, the organizational session is held the second Monday in January following the election.
6. Oklahoma: In the Senate, the organizational session is held the first Monday of the first full week in January.

**Table 00-2.41 When Organizational Caucuses Are Held**

| State (1)     | Mid- to late November | First or second week in December | Week prior to the opening of session | Day prior to the opening of session | The opening day of session | Other |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Alabama       |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Alaska        | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Arizona       | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Arkansas      |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| California    |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Colorado      | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Connecticut   |                       |                                  |                                      | S                                   |                            |       |
| Delaware      | H                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Florida       |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Georgia       | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Hawaii        | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Idaho         |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Illinois      |                       |                                  | H                                    |                                     |                            | 2     |
| Indiana       |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Iowa          | S                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Kansas        |                       | B                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Kentucky      |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Louisiana     |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Maine         | B                     | S                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Maryland      |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Massachusetts |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     | H                          |       |
| Michigan      | H                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            | 3     |
| Minnesota     | H                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Mississippi   |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Missouri      | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Montana       | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |

**Table 00-2.41 When Organizational Caucuses Are Held, cont'd.**

| State (1)            | Mid- to late November | First or second week in December | Week prior to the opening of session | Day prior to the opening of session | The opening day of session | Other |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Nebraska             |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Nevada               | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| New Hampshire        | H                     | H                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| New Jersey           |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| New Mexico           |                       | S                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| New York             |                       |                                  |                                      | H                                   |                            |       |
| North Carolina       |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| North Dakota         |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Ohio                 |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Oklahoma             | H                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            | 4     |
| Oregon               |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Pennsylvania         | H                     | S                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Rhode Island         | H                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| South Carolina       |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| South Dakota         |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            | 5     |
| Tennessee            |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Texas                |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Utah                 | B                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Vermont              |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Virginia             |                       | H                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Washington           | S                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| West Virginia        |                       | S                                |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Wisconsin            | H                     |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| Wyoming              |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |
| District of Columbia |                       |                                  |                                      |                                     |                            |       |

**Table 00-2.41 When Organizational Caucuses Are Held, cont'd.**

## Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

## Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Illinois: In the Senate, the organizational caucuses may be held any time between the election and the opening day of session.
3. Michigan: In the Senate, the organizational caucuses are held prior to the opening day of session.
4. Oklahoma: In the House, the Speaker's Leadership Retreat is held following the general election and swearing in of new members.
5. South Dakota: In the Senate and House, the party caucuses usually meet informally to elect leadership about three to six weeks after the election.

**Table 00-2.42 Organizational Session Activities by the Full Body**

| State (1)     | Members sworn in | Nominees for presiding officer are selected | Presiding officers are elected | Caucus leaders are chosen | Other chamber officers are selected | Committees are established | Committee chairs/members are appointed | Chamber rules are adopted |
|---------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Alabama       |                  |   |                                |                           | S                                   | S                          | S                                      | S                         |
| Alaska        | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   |                            | B                                      | B                         |
| Arizona       |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Arkansas      |                  |   | S                              | S                         |                                     | B                          | S                                      | S                         |
| California    | B                | H   | B                              | S                         | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Colorado      |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Connecticut   | H                |   | H                              |                           | H                                   |                            |  | B                         |
| Delaware      |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Florida       | B                | S   | B                              |                           | B                                   | B                          |  | B                         |
| Georgia       | H                |   | H                              |                           | H                                   |                            |  | H                         |
| Hawaii        |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Idaho         | B                | H   | B                              | B                         | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Illinois      | B                |   | B                              | S                         | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Indiana       | B                | B   | B                              |                           | B                                   |                            |  | S                         |
| Iowa          |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Kansas        |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Kentucky      | B                | B   | B                              | B                         | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Louisiana     | B                | B   | B                              |                           | B                                   |                            |  |                           |
| Maine         | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   | H                          |  | B                         |
| Maryland      |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Massachusetts | H                |   | H                              |                           | H                                   |                            |  | H                         |
| Michigan      | B                | H   | B                              |                           | B                                   | S                          | S                                      | B                         |
| Minnesota     | H                |   | H                              |                           | H                                   | H                          |  | H                         |
| Mississippi   | H                | H   | H                              |                           | H                                   |                            |  | H                         |
| Missouri      |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Montana       |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |



**Table 00-2.42 Organizational Session Activities by the Full Body, cont'd.**

| State (1)            | Members sworn in | Nominees for presiding officer are selected | Presiding officers are elected | Caucus leaders are chosen | Other chamber officers are selected | Committees are established | Committee chairs/members are appointed | Chamber rules are adopted |
|----------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Nebraska             |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Nevada               |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| New Hampshire        | B                | S   | B                              |                           | B                                   |                            |  | B                         |
| New Jersey           |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| New Mexico           | S                |   | S                              |                           | S                                   | S                          | S                                      | S                         |
| New York             |                  |   | H                              |                           | H                                   |                            |  | H                         |
| North Carolina       | S                |   |                                |                           | S                                   |                            |  | S                         |
| North Dakota         | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Ohio                 | B                | B   | B                              | H                         | B                                   | S                          | S                                      | S                         |
| Oklahoma             |                  | H   | B                              |                           | S                                   | H                          | H                                      | B                         |
| Oregon               | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   |                            | B                                      | B                         |
| Pennsylvania         | S                | S   | S                              |                           | S                                   |                            |  | S                         |
| Rhode Island         |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| South Carolina       | H                | H   | H                              |                           | H                                   | H                          | H                                      | H                         |
| South Dakota         | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Tennessee            | B                | B   | B                              |                           | B                                   | B                          | B                                      | B                         |
| Texas                |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Utah                 |                  |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                           |
| Vermont              | S                |   |                                |                           | S                                   |                            |  | S                         |
| Virginia             | H                |   | H                              |                           | H                                   |                            |  | H                         |
| Washington           | H                | H   | H                              |                           | H                                   | H                          | H                                      | H                         |
| West Virginia        | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   | S                          | S                                      | B                         |
| Wisconsin            | B                |   | B                              |                           | B                                   | H                          |  | B                         |
| Wyoming              | B                | B   | B                              |                           |                                     |                            |  | B                         |
| District of Columbia |                  |   |                                |                           | S                                   | S                          | S                                      | S                         |

**Table 00-2.42 Organizational Session Activities by the Full Body, cont'd.**

## Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

## Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.

**Table 00-2.43 More Organizational Session Activities by the Full Body**

| State (1)     | Session schedule is adopted | Chamber seating is set | Members select offices | New member orientation is held | Other |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Alabama       |                             | S                      | S                      |                                |       |
| Alaska        |                             |                        |                        | B                              |       |
| Arizona       |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Arkansas      |                             | B                      | S                      | S                              |       |
| California    | S                           | B                      | B                      | B                              |       |
| Colorado      |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Connecticut   |                             | H                      |                        |                                |       |
| Delaware      |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Florida       |                             |                        |                        | B                              |       |
| Georgia       |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Hawaii        |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Idaho         |                             | B                      | B                      | B                              |       |
| Illinois      | H                           | B                      | B                      |                                |       |
| Indiana       |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Iowa          |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Kansas        |                             |                        |                        | B                              | 2     |
| Kentucky      |                             | H                      |                        |                                |       |
| Louisiana     |                             | H                      |                        |                                |       |
| Maine         |                             |                        |                        | H                              | 3     |
| Maryland      |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Massachusetts |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Michigan      |                             |                        |                        | H                              |       |
| Minnesota     |                             |                        |                        | H                              |       |
| Mississippi   |                             | H                      |                        |                                |       |
| Missouri      |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Montana       |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |

**Table 00-2.43 More Organizational Session Activities by the Full Body, cont'd.**

| State (1)            | Session schedule is adopted | Chamber seating is set | Members select offices | New member orientation is held | Other |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Nebraska             |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Nevada               |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| New Hampshire        | S                           |                        |                        | H                              |       |
| New Jersey           |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| New Mexico           |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| New York             |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| North Carolina       |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| North Dakota         |                             | B                      |                        | B                              |       |
| Ohio                 |                             |                        |                        | H                              |       |
| Oklahoma             | S                           | S                      |                        |                                |       |
| Oregon               |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Pennsylvania         |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Rhode Island         |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| South Carolina       |                             | H                      |                        |                                |       |
| South Dakota         | B                           |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Tennessee            | S                           | B                      | B                      | S                              |       |
| Texas                |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Utah                 |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Vermont              |                             |                        |                        |                                | 4     |
| Virginia             | H                           |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Washington           |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| West Virginia        |                             | H                      | H                      | H                              |       |
| Wisconsin            | B                           |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Wyoming              |                             |                        |                        |                                |       |
| District of Columbia | S                           |                        |                        |                                |       |

**Table 00-2.43 More Organizational Session Activities by the Full Body, cont'd.**

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Kansas: In the House, members submit requests for committee assignments, seats and offices to the speaker-elect.
3. Maine: The Senate and House also meet in joint convention to elect the constitutional officers and the state auditor.
4. Vermont: In the Senate, the president pro tempore and the member of the Committee on Committees are elected.

Table 00-2.44 Organizational Caucus Activities

| State (1)     | Nominees for presiding officer are selected | Presiding officers are elected | Caucus leaders are chosen | Other chamber officers are selected | Committees are established | Committee chairs/members are appointed | Chamber seating is set | Members select offices | New member orientation is held | Other |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Alabama       |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Alaska        | B   |                                | B                         |                                     | B                          |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Arizona       | H   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Arkansas      |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| California    |   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Colorado      | S   | H                              | B                         | S                                   |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Connecticut   |   |                                | B                         |                                     | S                          | S                                      |                        | S                      |                                |       |
| Delaware      | H   |                                | H                         | H                                   |                            |  | H                      | H                      |                                | 2     |
| Florida       |   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Georgia       | B   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Hawaii        | S   |                                | S                         |                                     | S                          | S                                      | S                      | S                      | S                              |       |
| Idaho         |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Illinois      | B   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        | H                              |       |
| Indiana       |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Iowa          |   |                                | S                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                | 3     |
| Kansas        | B   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Kentucky      |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Louisiana     |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Maine         | B   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Maryland      |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Massachusetts | H   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Michigan      | S   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Minnesota     | H   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  | H                      | H                      |                                |       |
| Mississippi   |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Missouri      | B   | B                              | B                         | S                                   |                            |  | S                      | S                      |                                |       |
| Montana       | B   |                                | B                         | B                                   |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |

**Table 00-2.44 Organizational Caucus Activities, cont'd.**

| State (1)            | Nominees for presiding officer are selected | Presiding officers are elected | Caucus leaders are chosen | Other chamber officers are selected | Committees are established | Committee chairs/members are appointed | Chamber seating is set | Members select offices | New member orientation is held | Other |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Nebraska             |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Nevada               | H   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            | B                                      | S                      | S                      |                                |       |
| New Hampshire        | H   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| New Jersey           |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| New Mexico           | S   |                                | S                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| New York             | H   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        | H                              | 4     |
| North Carolina       |   |                                | S                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| North Dakota         | B   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Ohio                 |   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  | H                      | H                      |                                |       |
| Oklahoma             | H   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                | 5     |
| Oregon               |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Pennsylvania         | B   |                                | B                         |                                     | S                          | S                                      | S                      | S                      | S                              | 6     |
| Rhode Island         |   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| South Carolina       |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| South Dakota         | B   |                                | B                         |                                     |                            |  | B                      | B                      |                                |       |
| Tennessee            |   |                                | S                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Texas                |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Utah                 |   | B                              | B                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        | H                              |       |
| Vermont              |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Virginia             |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Washington           |   |                                | S                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| West Virginia        | S   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Wisconsin            | H   |                                | H                         |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| Wyoming              |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |
| District of Columbia |   |                                |                           |                                     |                            |  |                        |                        |                                |       |

**Table 00-2.44 Organizational Caucus Activities, cont'd.**

## Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

## Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Alabama House, Delaware Senate, Mississippi Senate, New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, New York Senate, Rhode Island Senate, Vermont House, American Samoa Senate and House, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and House, and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Delaware: In the House, parking spaces are selected.
3. Iowa: In the Senate, legislative priorities are agreed to.
4. New York: In the Assembly, members are sworn in.
5. Oklahoma: At the Speaker's Leadership Retreat in the House, offices and seating are assigned, committee chairs are named and committee assignments are given.
6. Pennsylvania: In the Senate, the session schedule is adopted.