

Fall 12-8-2023

State Government: A Comparison of Bicameral, Biennial, Citizen Legislatures

Zachary J. Johnigan
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/durep_posters



Part of the [Comparative Politics Commons](#), [Models and Methods Commons](#), and the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Johnigan, Zachary J., "State Government: A Comparison of Bicameral, Biennial, Citizen Legislatures" (2023). *Undergraduate Research Symposium Posters*. 203.
https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/durep_posters/203

This Presentation is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Presentation in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Presentation has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Symposium Posters by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.

State Government: A Comparison of Bicameral, Biennial, Citizen Legislatures

Introduction

Governing agencies can be classified as either federal, state, or local. The Nevada Legislature is a state level governing body that provides governance for the state of Nevada. A large part of the process of governing the state takes place during a regular legislative session, where new laws are heard then passed or denied and old laws are revised or abolished. One regular legislative session consists of 120 calendar days. In the event that not all business was able to be conducted within a regular session, the governor of the state can call for a special session to be opened. A special session is typically not budgeted and ends up costing extra money to operate. There may be operational issues surrounding current regular session lengths and frequency which attribute to the Nevada Legislature needing to open so many special sessions. This topic is of interest for the Nevada Legislature's stakeholders. The stakeholders are the citizens of the state of Nevada who pay taxes.

Findings

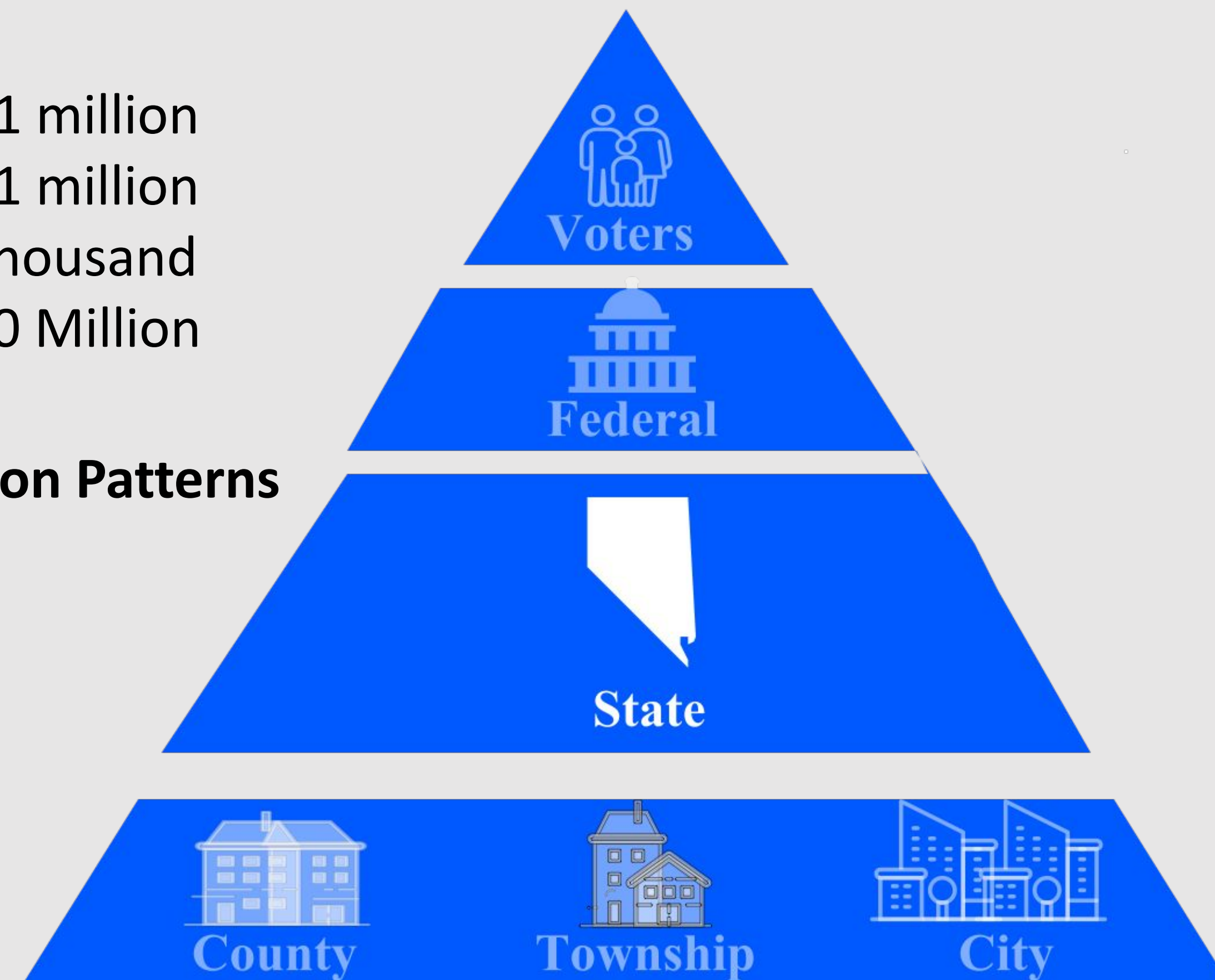
State Populations

Montana	1.1 million
Nevada	3.1 million
North Dakota	780 thousand
Texas	30 Million

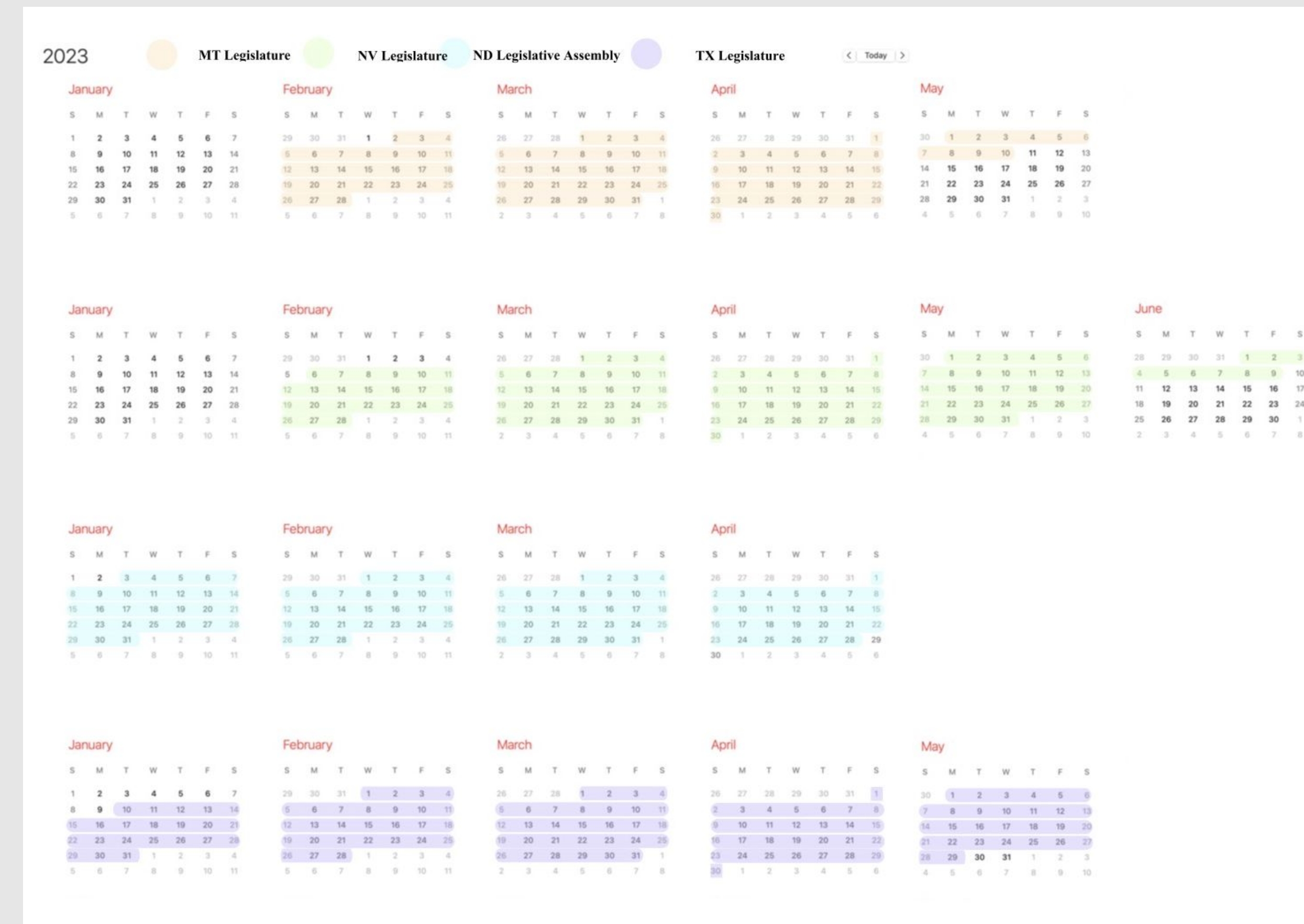
Legislator Representation Patterns

Gender - ?
Age - ?
Profession - ?

(Future research)



Voters are located at the top of all government. Governments serve the voters.



Legislative sessions ranged from 80 to 140 days. All sessions are held in the beginning half of the year.

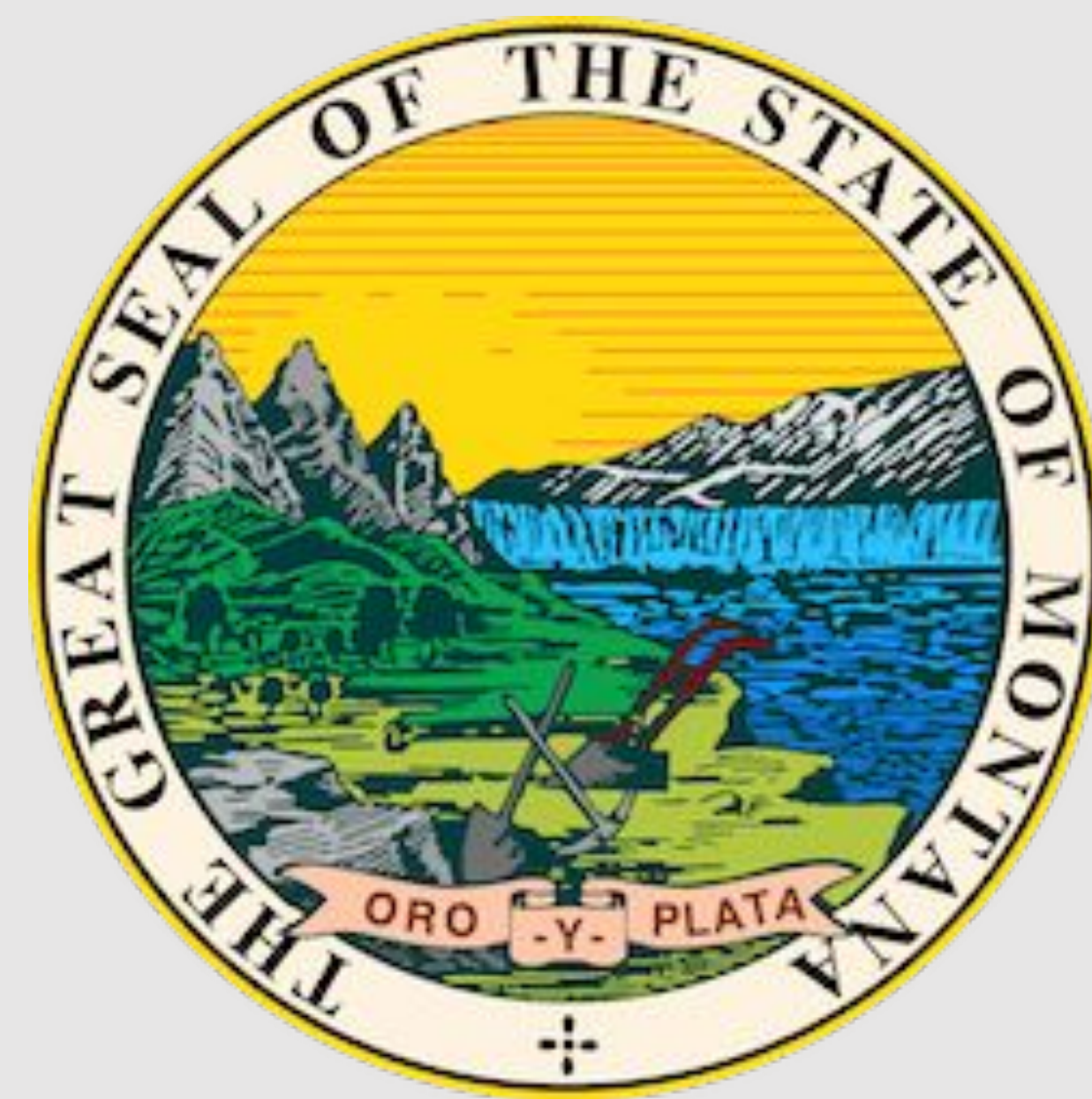
Summary

It is evident from the findings that while state legislature's may appear disorganized and complex, they most likely are indeed serving their constituents to the best of their ability. However, each could benefit from minor and drastic changes in structure to improve their serving ability.

Future Directions

Further research must be done on the Legislative Structure and Composition analysis, Legislative Process and Decision-Making analysis, and the Legislative Performance and Policy Outputs analysis. These analysis of state governments could hold profound implications for the field of public administration.

Methods



Montana Legislature
68th Session (2023)

Upper House – 50 seats
Lower House – 100 seats

BDR – 4,643
Bills Introduced – 1,698
Bills Passed – 802 (47%)
Bills Vetoed – 27



Nevada Legislature
84th Session (2021)

Upper House – 21 seats
Lower House – 42 seats

BDR – 1,234
Leg. Introduced – 1,035
Leg. Enacted – 605 (58%)
Legislation Vetoed – 4



North Dakota Leg. Assm.
68th Session (2023)

Upper House – 47 seats
Lower House – 94 seats

BDR – ?
Leg. Introduced – 932
Leg. Enacted – 585 (62%)
Legislation Vetoed – 8



Texas Legislature
88th 1st & 2nd Sessions (2023)

Upper House – 31 seats
Lower House – 150 seats

BDR - ?
Leg. Introduced – 11,807
Leg. Passed – 4,550 (38%)
Legislation Vetoed – 77

References

Frazer, M. (2020). Policy Making in the Nevada Legislature: How Interest Groups Make the Difference. Student Papers, 1-16.
Vukovic, D. (2023, March 14). Natural Disasters in Montana: What is the Risk? Retrieved August 2023, from Primal Survivor: <https://www.primalsurvivor.net/natural-disasters-montana/#:~:text=Montana%20has%20a%20medium%20risk,than%20%24%20billion%20in%20damages.>
Western Fire Chiefs Association. (2022, July 5). What Causes Wildfires? Retrieved August 2023, from www.wfca.com: <https://wfca.com/articles/what-causes-wildfires/>
Wolak, J. (2017). Public Expectations of State Legislators. Legislative Studies Quarterly, 175-209.
Yao Krahn, R. D., & Mertens, G. (2020). Transparency in Local Governments: Patterns and Practices of Twenty-first Century. State and Local Government Review, 52(3), 200-213.

Acknowledgements

TRIO

RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Jayne Farmer, Ph.D. | Terri Bernstein, M.A. | Kimberly Usbeck, B.A.

Contact

Zachary J. Johnigan
College of Urban Affairs, UNLV
Johnigan@unlv.nevada.edu