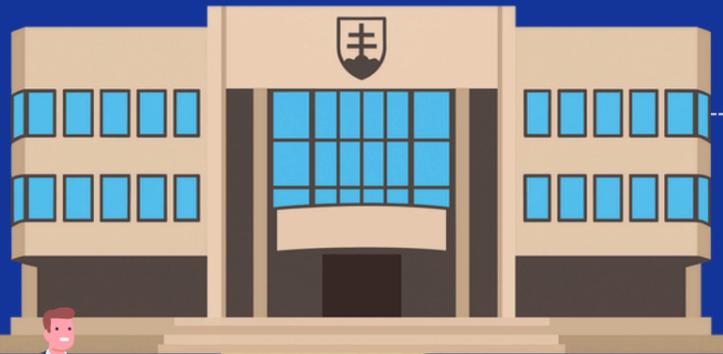


# A Quick Guide to the National Council of the Slovak Republic

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The National Council of the Slovak Republic is **unicameral Parliament**: it consists of one chamber.

National Council is one of the 3 branches of the state power, alongside **executive** and **judiciary**.



## Legislative

is represented by the National Council which approves the laws.



## Executive

is represented by the President and the Government which exercise powers according to the laws.



## Judiciary

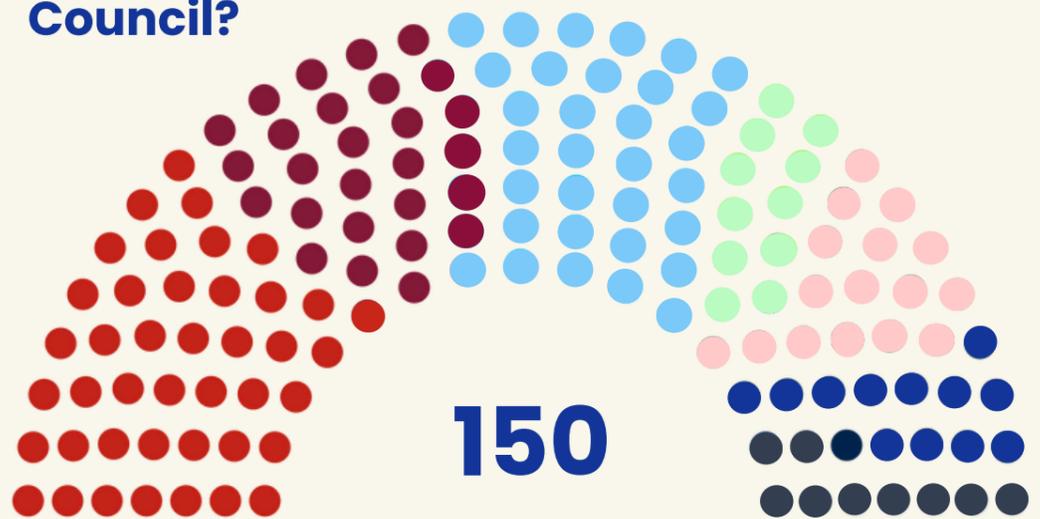
is represented by the Constitutional Court and the system of courts which interpret the laws.

## Who is represented in the National Council?

National Council is made up of **150 Members of the Parliament (MPs)** who are elected for a period of **4 years** in general elections.

An MP can become anyone who has the **right to vote**, has reached the **age of 21**, and is **permanently residing** in the Slovak Republic.

The **Speaker** is the highest parliamentary dignitary in the National Council. He or she is responsible for convening and presiding over sessions of the National Council. At the moment, the Speaker is **Richard Raši**. The Speaker is supported by **4 Deputy-Speakers**.



### Coalition - 79 MPs

- Direction - Social Democracy
- Voice - Social Democracy
- Slovak National Party

### Opposition - 71 MPs

- Progressive Slovakia
- Freedom and Solidarity
- Christian Democratic Movement
- Slovakia - For the People - Christian Union

Information based on election results of 2023.

## Main functions of the National Council



### Law-making

It approves the Constitution, constitutional laws and other laws and it controls their upholding. Draft laws may be introduced by MPs, committees and the Government.



### Oversight

It supervises the Government and holds ministers accountable through reports, interpellations and Question Hour. It can pass a vote of no confidence in the government or individual ministers.



### Power of creation

It has the power to establish its own bodies (Speaker, Deputy-Speakers, committees and their chairpersons) and other bodies of state administration (e.g., ministries, the Supreme Audit Office).



### EU matters and parliamentary diplomacy

It has specific powers in relation to EU affairs, and it cooperates with other parliaments, regional groups, international organizations.

## Brief history of the National Council



### 1918–1939: Slovaks in Czechoslovakia

In the new unitary state, Slovaks were represented in the National Assembly. Geopolitical changes led to the creation of the autonomous **Slovak Country**. In December 1938, the first elections to the Assembly of the Slovak Country were held.

### 1945–1989: Under socialism

In this authoritative period, the Parliament only formally confirmed decisions of the regime. A turning point came in **1968** under **Alexander Dubček** when the **Slovak Socialist Republic** was established within the new federation.

### 1993 onwards: Modern period

In 1993, the sovereign Slovak Republic was founded. The first free elections in an independent state were held in 1994. In 2004, Slovakia became the Member State of the **EU and NATO**. Nowadays, the National Council is already in its ninth term.

### 1848: Slovak parliamentarism in the Kingdom of Hungary

The roots of the current Slovak parliamentarism go back to the **first Slovak National Council**. Its seat was in Myjava. The first Speaker was **Jozef Milan Hurban**, assisted by Ľudovít Štúr and Michal Miloslav Hodža.

### 1939–1945: Slovak State and resistance

The Assembly declared independence of the so-called **Slovak State**. The Assembly had limited powers. The history of the current National Council dates back to the establishment of the **new Slovak National Council** as a representative institution of the anti-fascist **resistance** in December 1943.

### 1989–1992:

#### Democratization

The Velvet Revolution brought free elections. In 1992, the Federal Assembly decided on the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The 1992 Slovak Constitution changed the name "Slovak National Council" to the "**National Council of the Slovak Republic**."



## Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

All organizational, specialized and technical tasks related to the activities of the National Council and its committees are performed by the **Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic**. It is a **parliamentary administration**, composed of numerous departments.



The Chancellery is managed by the **Secretary General** who is appointed by the Speaker of the National Council. Currently, the Secretary General is **Daniel Guspan**.



**Parliamentary Institute** is one of the departments of the Chancellery. It provides analytical, informational and educational activities. **Parliamentary Library** and **Parliamentary Archives** belong to the Parliamentary Institute.

Parliamentary Institute regularly prepares analytical materials focused on current topics discussed in the National Council, responses to requests from the officials, committees, MPs or other parliaments.

## Did you know?



Unlike many parliaments in Europe with multiple electoral districts, Slovakia treats the entire country as **one multi-member constituency** for the National Council elections. To vote, one has to reach the **age of 18**.



The current building of the National Council was used for the first time in **1994**. It is situated next to the **Bratislava Castle** which is also used by the National Council. The historical building is situated on the **Župné Square** in Bratislava.

**CHANCELLERY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE**  
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