



96 YEARS

IN THE HISTORY OF THE LATVIAN LEGISLATURE

PEOPLE'S COUNCIL



The Republic of Latvia was proclaimed on **18 November 1918**



The first legislature was the People's Council, which consisted of **40 members** representing eight political parties



Because of the **political situation** at that time, elections could not be held

Quotas for political representation were determined on the grounds of the **number of members** in the political party and **its influence in society**



In **1919**, the People's Council had **183** members, but by the end of its term of office, membership had grown to **245**



The People's Council held its sittings in Riga; however, during the War of Liberation they were also held in **Liepāja** and **Cēsis**



The People's Council functioned for **two years**; during that time it drafted the political platform of the People's Council, which can be regarded as the **provisional constitution** of the Republic of Latvia



The People's Council adopted several significant laws in the following areas:

- ▶ local governments and their election
- ▶ the monetary system
- ▶ educational institutions
- ▶ citizenship
- ▶ judiciary matters
- ▶ election of the Constitutional Assembly

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY



The first elected legislative body – the Constitutional Assembly – was elected on **17 and 18 April 1920**



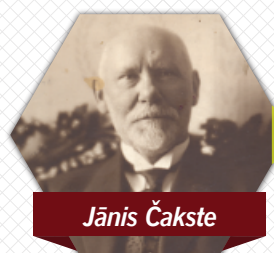
On **27 May 1920**, the Declaration on the Statehood of Latvia was adopted stating that Latvia is an **independent democratic republic** and that the sovereign power is vested in the people of Latvia



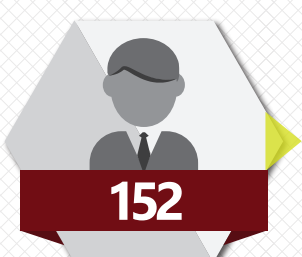
The Constitutional Assembly drafted and on **15 February 1922** adopted the supreme law of the state – the Constitution (**Satversme**)



The Constitutional Assembly functioned for **more than two years**



The President of the Constitutional Assembly was **Jānis Čakste**



The Constitutional Assembly consisted of **152 members**



The most significant laws adopted by the Constitutional Assembly:

- ▶ laws on agrarian reform
- ▶ Law on the Election of the Saeima
- ▶ Peace Treaty between Latvia and Russia

1st SAEIMA

1922

Elections of the 1st Saeima were held on **7 and 8 October 1922**

82,2%

The turnout was **82.2%** of eligible voters

3 YEARS

The 1st Saeima consisting of **100 members** was elected for a three-year term

Frīdrihs Vesmanis

The first Speaker of the Saeima was **Frīdrihs Vesmanis**; on 20 March 1925, he was succeeded by **Dr. Pauls Kalniņš**, who held this office in four successive convocations of the Saeima

Pauls Kalniņš



The most significant laws adopted by the 1st Saeima:

- ▶ Law on the Structure of the Cabinet of Ministers
- ▶ Law on Associations, Unions and Political Organisations
- ▶ Law on Meetings

2nd SAEIMA

1925

Elections of the 2nd Saeima were held on **3 and 4 October 1925**



Starting with this convocation, the Saeima focused on **social and economic issues**



3rd SAEIMA

1928

Elections of the 3rd Saeima were held on **6 and 7 October 1928**

1000 Ls

Beginning with this election, the submitters of each candidate list had to pay a **security deposit of LVL 1,000**, which was refunded if at least one candidate from the list was elected in at least one constituency

4th SAEIMA

1931

Elections of the 4th Saeima were held on **3 and 4 October 1931**; however, after three years it was dissolved following the coup, and its functions were assumed by the **Cabinet of Ministers**

Kārlis Ulmanis

SUPREME COUNCIL



On **18 March 1990** elections of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia were held, and for the first time since the beginning of Soviet occupation, candidates from **various political movements** were allowed to participate in parliamentary elections



The Supreme Council specified a transition period for the **de facto** restoration of statehood; the transition period ended with the convening of the 5th Saeima

5th SAEIMA



After the restoration of Latvia's independence, elections of the 5th Saeima were held on **5 and 6 June 1993**; the turnout was **89.9%** of eligible voters



The 5th Saeima:

- ▶ reinstated the Constitution adopted on 1922
- ▶ reinstated the Law on the Structure of the Cabinet of Ministers adopted in 1925
- ▶ adopted the Citizenship Law
- ▶ adopted the Anti-Corruption Law,
- ▶ implemented local government reform
- ▶ ratified the agreement on complete withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Latvia

6th SAEIMA



Elections of the 6th Saeima were held on **30 September** and **1 October 1995**



As of the 7th Saeima, the term of office of each convocation was extended **from three to four years**

7th SAEIMA



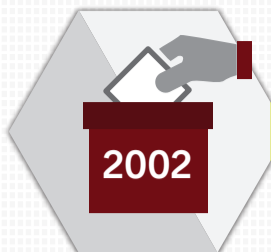
For the first time in the history of Latvia, the Saeima elections took place on one day only - **3 October 1998**



The most significant laws adopted by this convocation:

- ▶ Law on Amendments to the Constitution introducing a chapter on human rights
- ▶ Law on the State Administration System
- ▶ Law on the Administrative Procedure

8th SAEIMA



Elections of the 8th Saeima were held on **5 October 2002**



In the course of accession to the European Union, this convocation **ensured harmonisation** of certain laws and regulations with the legislation of the **European Union**

9th SAEIMA



Elections of the 9th Saeima were held on **7 October 2006**. This convocation amended the Constitution giving voters the **right to dissolve the Saeima**



The 9th Saeima ratified several international treaties, including the **Latvia–Russia Border Treaty** and the **Treaty of Lisbon**

10th SAEIMA



Valdis Zatlers

Elections of the 10th Saeima were held on **2 October 2010**. On 23 July 2011, however, this convocation was dissolved by the citizens on the basis of a referendum initiated by **Valdis Zatlers**, President of Latvia



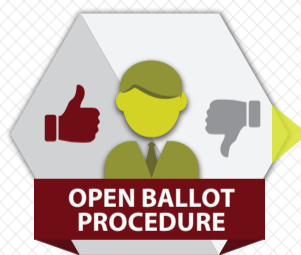
Andris Bērziņš

The **10th Saeima** continued to work until the new Saeima was convened. During this period, **Andris Bērziņš**, the newly elected President of Latvia, convened the plenary sittings of the Saeima and set their agenda

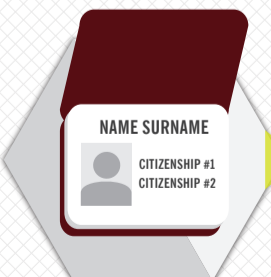
11th SAEIMA



Extraordinary elections of the 11th Saeima were held on **17 September 2011**, and it served for only **three years**



This convocation gave up the practice of voting by secret ballot and decided that from now on almost all public officials will be **elected by open ballot**



Significant amendments were introduced to the Citizenship Law permitting **dual citizenship**, and the Constitution was supplemented with a **preamble**

