

Glossary

Ever wondered what words like **bill**, **debate**, or **committee** really mean in the world of politics? This glossary will help you understand the key terms used in the Senedd and other parliaments. Whether you're learning about how laws are made or exploring how the Senedd works, these definitions will make it easier to follow what's happening and get involved in the conversation.

Act of Senedd Cymru

A Bill approved by the Senedd and now a law for Wales.

Ballot paper

A piece of paper used to secretly record a voter's choice.

Bill

A proposed law under consideration by the Senedd.



Candidate

Someone who stands for election as a Member of the Senedd (MS).

Coalition

A form of government in which two or more political parties work together, usually when no party on its own can achieve a majority in the election.

Committee

A small group of Senedd Members, across different political parties that look at particular subjects in detail. They carry out many tasks, including scrutinising the budget and policies of the Welsh Government, holding Ministers to account, and examining proposed laws (legislation).

Constituency

An electoral district that a Member of the Senedd (MS) is elected to represent.

Debate

A discussion between Members of the Senedd. Debates take place in the Siambr and can be followed by a vote.



Devolution

The transfer of political power from a central government or parliament to a national, regional or local government or parliament.

Election

The voting process to select a person for a public position.

First Minister

Leader of the Welsh Government in Wales.

FMQs

First Minister's Questions. This is a weekly session when MSs can ask the First Minister questions during Plenary.

Government

In charge of managing the country and is usually formed by the political party that wins the most seats at an election.

Parliament (or Senedd in Welsh)

The democratically elected body that represents the interests of a country and its people. It makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

Party

A political party is a group of people who share similar ideas and work together to get elected and make decisions about how the country is run. Some are formed around a single issue or interest group. Others are formed to address all issues. You don't have to be a member of a party to stand for election – these are known as independent candidates / Members.

Plenary

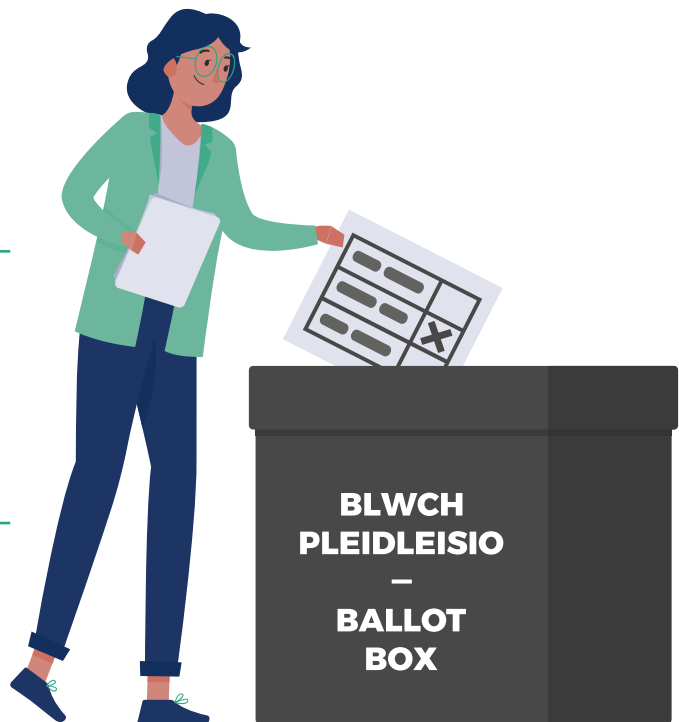
The meeting of the whole Senedd which takes place in the Siambr, the Senedd's debating chamber. It is chaired by the Presiding Officer or Llywydd and is the main forum for Members of the Senedd to carry out their roles as democratically elected representatives.

Presiding Officer

Commonly known as 'Y Llywydd', this is the person who chairs debates in the Senedd, calls MSs to speak and keeps order in the Chamber or 'Siambr'.

Proxy (vote)

A vote made on your behalf by someone else.



Manifesto

A set of aims and intentions by a political party and its plans to achieve these goals.

Referendum

A public vote on a particular issue. It is usually an event in which the people of a county vote for or against a law that deals with a specific issue.

Royal Assent

The signing of a Bill by the Monarch, turning it into an Act (a law).

Scrutiny

An intensive examination or investigation of an issue.

Senedd

The Welsh term for Parliament.

Online Research

Here's a list of some useful websites that you can use to learn more about the Senedd.

- www.senedd.wales
- www.senedd.wales/how-we-work
- www.senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-Senedd
- www.senedd.wales/committees
- www.gov.wales/cabinet-members-and-ministers

