In the plenum

Members have agreed on procedural arrangements for the plenary session in the Rules of Procedure of the Landtag. The Landtag President or one of her deputies presides over the meeting to ensure that the rules are duly observed. Two members assist her as recording clerks. The following basic procedure is followed for the plenary session:

1. Debate of matters of topical interest (‘Aktuelle Stunde’)
   The members discuss a current political topic in depth. The right of petition alternates between the parliamentary groups.

2. Question time
   The duty of the Land government to answer questions from members helps to monitor the work done by the Land administration. This gives members of the Landtag the opportunity to air any grievances in public at short notice.

3. Reading of draft bills
   Priority is given to laws on which a final vote is needed after being debated by the committees. Newly introduced draft bills are then dealt with.

4. Major interpellations and reports by the Land government
   The Land government reports on a subject in detail. The report is then discussed in the plenum.

5. Motions and independent motions for a resolution
   By using motions, the parliament attempts to move the Land government towards a specific course of action. Opposition groups often use motions to make it clear that, should they come to power, they would implement the measures in question in a different way to the government.

The speech times of the parliamentary groups are determined by the procedural arrangements. Extra time is given to someone introducing a subject for debate.

Parliamentary groups

The members of a party form a parliamentary group. Each group consists as a general rule of at least 5 members. Smaller groups of 3–4 members may be formed, although their special status does not provide the full set of rights and funding larger parliamentary groups enjoy. Groupings enable members to specialise in certain subjects and give structure to the work done by parliament.

The Land government

The members of the Landtag elect the Minister-President. He or she defines the guidelines for government policy and leads the Land administration together with his or her ministers. The Landtag monitors the work of the government. The members also decide on the Land budget. During the seventh legislative period, the Land government is supported by the SPD, CDU and GRÜNE/B90 parliamentary groups. Dr. Dietmar Woidke, SPD, was re-elected as Minister-President in November 2019.

The Land parliament

The sixth seventh Brandenburg Landtag consists of 88 members who were elected to serve a five-year term in the Landtag in 2019 by voters in 44 electoral districts and by means of lists of candidates at Land level. In Germany, jurisdiction is shared between the authorities at federal (Bundestag) and state (Landtag) level, as well as the local authorities (Kreistag [county council], Stadtrat [municipal council], gemeindevertretung [municipal council]). Examples of issues dealt with by the Brandenburg Landtag are schools and nurseries, the police, the courts and penal system, economic development, transport infrastructure, and consumer protection.

The legislative process

The fundamental principles of draft bills are discussed during the first reading. Politicians then debate possible amendments in standing committees whose meetings are open to the public. They listen to the representatives of interest groups at the same time. The laws, including any amendments, are then approved or rejected by all the members in the plenum.
Franz Josef Wiese, Minister of the Economy, Labor and Energy; Lutz Münchke, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs; Dennis Hohloch, Minister and Head of the State Chancellery.

The text continues with a discussion on the assessment of consequences of the Communist dictatorship.