

SELECTION

There are three ways to become a senator in 2014. In other words, three selection methods are in use around the world:

- **appointment;**
- **election;** and
- **mixed selection.**

Appointment means senators are selected by a political authority. In 2014, 17 upper houses have appointed senators. For example, here in Canada, the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoints the 105 members of the Senate of Canada. Barbados uses the same selection method. The United Kingdom's process for appointing peers to its upper house is unique. In addition to the peers appointed for life by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, there remain some hereditary peers and some bishops of the Church of England in the House of Lords. In other countries, such as Jordan and Bahrain, the King simply appoints the members of the senate. Note that 11 of these 17 senates are in Commonwealth nations. Besides Barbados and Canada, these Commonwealth countries comprise Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Lesotho, Saint-Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

Election means senators are chosen by direct election or by representatives who were themselves directly elected. In 2014, 41 upper houses are elected. For example, United States senators are directly elected. In Germany, senators are chosen from the members of the "Länder" (state) governments. In France, senators are elected by electoral colleges composed of municipal elected officials. In South Africa, senators are elected in a different fashion. Some provincial delegates are elected by the provinces according to the subject matter being considered by the National Council of Provinces, while others are selected based on the number seats each party holds in the National Assembly. They are therefore indirectly elected.

As for **mixed selection**, this means that some senators are appointed, while others are elected. In 2014, 21 upper houses have both appointed and elected senators. A notable case is Malaysia, where 26 senators are elected and 44 more are appointed by the head of state. The situation is similar in Swaziland, where 10 senators are elected indirectly by the members of the House of Assembly and 20 are appointed by the head of state. Ireland's form of mixed selection is particularly interesting. As of April 27, 2011, 11 senators were appointed by the Prime Minister. The 49 others were elected to represent various groups or institutions. For example, 6 senators are elected representatives of universities. The remaining 43 senators represent the five major vocations set out in the country's constitution, which are: national language and culture, literature, art and education; agriculture and fisheries; labour; industry and commerce; and public administration and social services.