

# Baghdad's government

Soldiers deployed to Baghdad often must work with government bodies that are very different from the ones they know back home. The names are different, the responsibilities are different and elected leaders often have no direct authority over the ones who actually oversee the city's projects and services—forcing political and service entities to work together on projects. To top it off, Baghdad's structure is different from other Iraqi cities. Here's a look at how Baghdad's government works.

## POLITICAL ENTITIES

Set priorities and makes decisions.

## LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT

## SERVICE ENTITIES

Provide technical expertise and resources.

<p><b>BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE (PROVINCIAL) COUNCIL</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> A state legislature  <b>Head:</b> Chairman, elected from the council members.  <b>Members:</b> 57 in Baghdad (41 in other governorate councils). Elected by the people.  <b>Spending money:</b> A lot. The provincial council is responsible for distributing much of the federal money that flows to the local level.  <b>Duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The highest elected body in the governorate.</li> <li>- Sets priorities for the governorate.</li> <li>- Monitors and recommends projects.</li> </ul>	<p><b>BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE (PROVINCE)</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> A state  <b>Chief executive:</b> Governor, elected by the governorate council  <b>About:</b> Baghdad is the smallest but most populous of Iraq's 18 governorates. Its borders stretch beyond the capital itself, from Taji in the north to Mahmudiyah in the south.</p>	
	<p><b>BAGHDAD CITY</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> A large city  <b>Chief executive:</b> Mayor  <b>About:</b> Like American cities, Baghdad is structured differently from its surrounding rural areas, which fall under a deputy governor for rural services instead of the mayor.</p>	<p><b>AMANAT</b>  <b>(One that covers all of Baghdad)</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> City hall, with a concentration in infrastructure  <b>Head:</b> Amin, selected by the Provincial Council  <b>Members:</b> Employees hired to fulfill specific jobs.  <b>Spending money:</b> A lot. The Amanat is responsible for improving the city's infrastructure and large-scale services.  <b>Duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oversees the city's essential services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>KATI' (DISTRICT) COUNCIL</b>  <b>(Nine in Baghdad)</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> A city council  <b>Head:</b> Chairman  <b>Members:</b> Chosen from among neighborhood council representatives. The number of members is based on a district's population.  <b>Spending money:</b> Next to nothing. The district council must ask the Provincial Council, the beladiyas or the Amanat to do the work.  <b>Duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommends projects for the district council's area, although the councils do not necessarily oversee these projects unless told to do so.</li> <li>- Works with beladiyas to ensure their residents' needs are met.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KATI' (DISTRICT)</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> Boroughs in a metropolis like New York City  <b>Chief executive:</b> Qa'im makam, elected by the district councils  <b>About:</b> Baghdad has nine kati's, which are frequently referred to as security districts or just districts.</p>	<p><b>BELADIYA</b>  <b>(13 in Baghdad)</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> Public works departments  <b>Head:</b> Deputy mayor, appointed by the Amanat's deputy amin for beladiyas  <b>Members:</b> Employees hired to fulfill specific jobs.  <b>Spending money:</b> Modest amounts sufficient to keep the districts running but not enough to expand essential services or embark large-scale projects.  <b>Duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintains the city's distribution systems.</li> <li>- Controls any money collected by the district councils.</li> <li>- Performs low-level improvements to the city such as landscaping or street cleaning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL</b>  <b>Similar:</b> A group of representatives from a city ward  <b>Head:</b> Council chairman  <b>Members:</b> Elected by the people. The number of members is based on the population in the council's area.  <b>Spending money:</b> None.  <b>Duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closest representative body to the people.</li> <li>- Handles lower-level administrative functions such as initial approval for fuel rations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HAYY</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> Districts of a large city  <b>About:</b> Many of Baghdad's 94 hayys have evolved different boundaries from government and service bodies at the equivalent level. Soldiers and officials tend to work around the boundaries of the neighborhood council instead – making hayys an often-overlooked, although still official, tier of government.</p>	
	<p><b>MUHALLA</b>  <b>Similar to:</b> A neighborhood  <b>About:</b> Muhallas are referred to by a three-digit number. The first indicates the muhalla's Kati. The last indicates which side of the kati the muhalla is in.</p>	