



## WHAT ARE LEGISLATORS?

*Serving the Iowa Legislature*

An Iowa legislator is someone who has many roles—lawmaker, a representative of constituents' interests, and an overseer of state citizen interests.

To be an Iowa legislator, a person must be a United States citizen, must have been an Iowa resident for at least one year, and a resident of the district he or she will represent for at least 60 days prior to the election. Senators, who serve four-year terms, must be at least 25 years of age, while Representatives serve two-year terms and must be at least 21 years of age.

## WHAT DO THEY DO?

### **Lawmaking**

- Proposing, studying, discussing, and voting on legislation
- Appropriating money to state agencies and programs
- Creating, eliminating, and modifying Iowa laws and programs

### **Representing**

- Serving constituents living in each district
- Functioning as a liaison between citizens and Iowa government

### **Evaluating**

- Overseeing the work of departments and agencies funded by the Legislature
- Ensuring that laws are being carried out according to legislative intent
- Confirming the Governor's appointments and responding to vetoes

8/24/12

*Legislative Information Office – Room G16*

*Iowa State Capitol*

*Iowa General Assembly web site: [www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)*