

# Outline of the Tokyo

Metropolitan Assembly





Assembly Hall

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic, which caused unprecedented crisis across the world, has shaken every aspect of social and economic activities, including the public health and healthcare system in Japan. Tokyo needs to overcome various social issues that surfaced due to this crisis and take all possible measures against its urgent issues such as disaster prevention, a low birthrate and an aging population, and climate change, while responding to price hikes and providing support for small and medium-sized companies to protect the lives of citizens. It must also be agile to adapt to changing times, such as the transformation of social and economic structures due to the accelerated spread of digital technology, such that it can create a society where the citizens can live safely and peacefully, and pioneer a bright future for the city.

Under such circumstances, a local government is required to run the administration autonomously at its own discretion according to the local situation while aiming for further decentralization. The roles and responsibilities of the local assembly, which is the legislative organ of the dualistic representative system alongside the executive organ led by the governor, are recognized as further increasing in weight and importance.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly will listen to the citizens and grasp multiple regional needs to fulfill their trust. In order to solve a wide range of issues the city faces, we will passionately discuss with the executive organ, including the Governor, on an equal footing and endeavor to advance systemic reforms and make the city even better and stronger from a different point of view, taking one step at a time and making great leaps forward.

# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>I. Japanese Local Autonomy System and the Metropolitan Assembly</b> .....   | 4  |
| 1. Japanese Local Autonomy System and Assembly .....   | 4  |
| 2. Metropolitan Assembly and Governor .....  | 4  |
| 3. Rights and Duties of Citizens .....   | 4  |
| <b>II. Functions of the Metropolitan Assembly</b> .....  | 6  |
| 1. History .....   | 6  |
| 2. Organization of the Assembly .....  | 7  |
| (1) Assembly Members .....   | 7  |
| (2) President and Vice President .....   | 10 |
| (3) Factions (Political Parties) .....   | 10 |
| 3. Rights of the Assembly .....  | 10 |
| (1) Right to Vote .....  | 10 |
| (2) Right to Elect (the President, the Vice President and the Members<br>of the Election Administration Commission) and Right to Consent ..... | 11 |
| (3) Right to Request Inspection and Audit .....  | 11 |
| (4) Right to Investigate .....   | 12 |
| (5) Right to Submit Opinion Briefs .....   | 12 |
| (6) No-confidence Motion against the Governor .....  | 12 |
| 4. Operation of the Assembly .....   | 12 |
| (1) Regular Sessions and Extraordinary Sessions .....  | 12 |
| (2) Plenary Session .....  | 13 |
| (3) Committees .....   | 13 |
| (4) Process of Passing Bills and Measures .....  | 15 |
| (5) Basic Rules for Operating Sessions .....   | 16 |
| ★ Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 1<br>Symbol of the Dual Representative System .....   | 18 |
| <b>III. Assembly and Executive Organ</b> .....   | 19 |
| ★ Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 2<br>Relationship Between Metropolitan Assembly and a Water Purification Plant .....                      | 21 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>IV. Citizens and the Metropolitan Assembly</b> .....                       | 22 |
| 1. Right to Elect Assembly Members .....                                      | 23 |
| 2. Right to Make Direct Requests .....  | 23 |
| (1) Right to Request the Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal of Ordinances ..... | 23 |
| (2) Right to Request the Dissolution of the Metropolitan Assembly.....        | 23 |
| (3) Right to Request the Dismissal of the Metropolitan Assembly Members.....  | 23 |
| 3. Public Hearings.....   | 25 |
| 4. Petitions and Appeals .....  | 25 |
| 5. Observing Assembly Sessions.....   | 25 |
| 6. Public Relations .....   | 26 |
| 7. Information Disclosure .....   | 26 |
| <br>  |    |
| <b>V. Metropolitan Assembly and International Exchange</b> .....              | 27 |
| 1. Exchange with Municipal Assemblies of Friendship Cities .....              | 27 |
| 2. Overseas Fact-Finding Missions.....  | 28 |
| 3. Visits of Foreign Officials to the Metropolitan Assembly .....             | 28 |
| <br>  |    |
| ★ Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 3<br>Metropolitan Assembly Art .....     | 29 |
| <br>  |    |
| <b>VI. Secretariat</b> .....  | 30 |
| <br>  |    |
| <b>Reference: The Constitution of Japan</b> .....                             | 31 |
| <br>  |    |
| <b>Assembly Hall Floor Plan</b> .....   | 32 |

# I. Japanese Local Autonomy System and the Metropolitan Assembly

## 1. Japanese Local Autonomy System and Assembly

About 80 years have passed since Japan established the local autonomy system based on the principles of democracy. During those years, the country has implemented countless reforms to secure the sovereign power of residents over their local government.

The Constitution of Japan stipulates local autonomy as the most fundamental principle of democracy. It devotes an entire chapter (Chapter VIII: Local Self-Government) to guaranteeing the democratic system of local governments.

Local autonomy in Japan is two-tiered: one is “prefectures” in charge of broader regional matters, and the other is “municipalities” (cities, towns, and villages) in charge of issues closely related to residents. Therefore, every local public entity in Japan belongs to a city/town/village as well as a prefecture.

Tokyo is a local public entity, similar to other prefectures; however, it has some unique aspects. One such aspect is that it has 23 local public entities called “special wards” (Note 1). Tokyo has the functions of a prefecture and a city; it governs cities/towns/villages and functions as a city where the 23 special wards exist to ensure comprehensive and efficient operations of a megacity. In addition, it has the special role as the capital of Japan.

A local public entity is composed of a legislative organ (municipal assembly), which legislates the will of its members, and an executive organ (top administrative official), which implements policies in accordance with the decisions made by the assembly. In case of Tokyo, the Metropolitan Assembly and the governor correspond to those two.

## 2. Metropolitan Assembly and Governor

In Tokyo, the Metropolitan Assembly is a legislative organ, and the governor is the head of the executive organ. Both the Metropolitan Assembly members and the governor are elected by a vote of the citizens.

The authority and roles of the Metropolitan Assembly and the governor are clearly separated. The two may be likened to “the two wheels of a cart.” They stand on equal footing, independent of each other, to ensure fair administration through mutual supervision and coordination. This is called the dual representative system.

## 3. Rights and Duties of Citizens

To maintain democratic local autonomy, every citizen must be aware of their role and participate proactively in public administration. To achieve this goal, the Local Autonomy Act specifies citizens’ basic rights and duties.

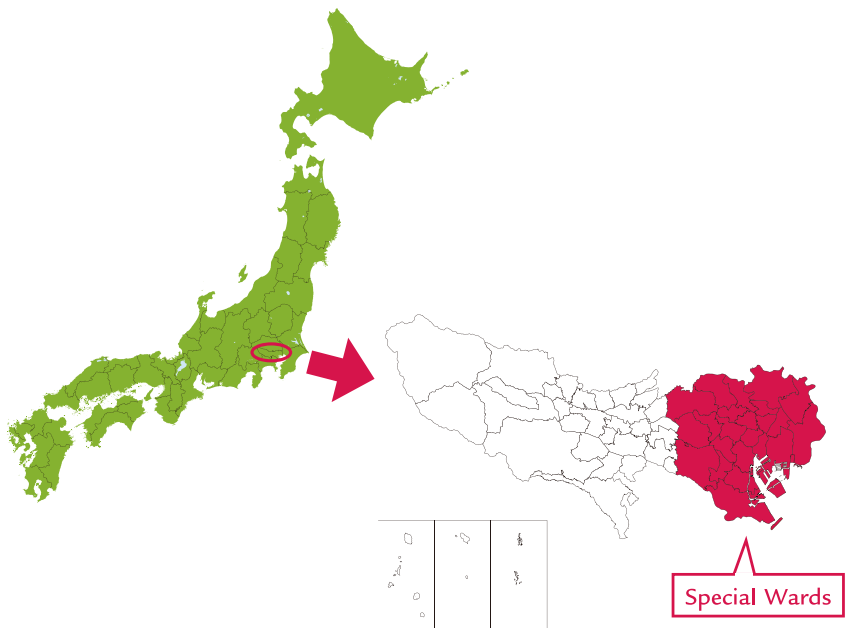
The citizens of Tokyo have the rights to equally receive all public services offered by the municipality. At the same time, they have public duties such as payment of inhabitant tax and contributions according to their benefits and capabilities to cover the city’s administrative cost. Moreover, they have the authority to participate in the municipality’s administration

(voting rights).

In addition, they have the various rights to make direct requests (e.g., request the enactment, amendment, and repeal of ordinances, request dissolution of the assembly, request dismissal of the assembly members and the governor, and request an audit of the administrative activities conducted by the municipality) and the right to submit petitions and appeals to reflect their requests in public administration.

Under this system, the Metropolitan Assembly functions as a decision-making body for the local government, Tokyo. The basic mission of the Metropolitan Assembly is to pick up requests and opinions of the citizens carefully on behalf of 14 million citizens and to reflect them in Tokyo's administrative affairs.

(Note 1) Special wards are local public entities unique to Tokyo, but their characteristics and functions are similar to those of cities.



## II. Functions of the Metropolitan Assembly

### 1. History

The Metropolitan Assembly was founded in 1943, when Tokyo-fu (prefecture) merged with Tokyo-shi (city) to become the Tokyo Metropolis. In May 1947, when the Local Autonomy Act was enacted based on the existing Constitution of Japan, it was recognized as Tokyo's legislative organ, functioning in the same way as the current assembly.

Upon recognition, the assembly established various systems to promote democratic local autonomy (such as standing committees, special committees, the right to submit bills and measures, and the right to inspect the administrative affairs of the Metropolitan Government). Since then, these systems have been continuously improved, with several revisions to the Local Autonomy Act.



Metropolitan Assembly Building



Assembly and Executive Organ

## 2. Organization of the Assembly

### (1) Assembly Members

The Metropolitan Assembly consists of the assembly members elected by the citizens of Tokyo.

#### (a) Election of Assembly Members

Tokyo has 42 electoral districts, and each district is allocated between one and eight members in proportion to its population. Candidates need to satisfy the following requirements:

- They must have Japanese citizenship.
- They must be at least 25 years old.
- They must have resided in Tokyo for at least three months.

If a person is sentenced to imprisonment or more severe punishment, his/her eligibility is terminated until he/she finishes the sentence (or is no longer able to serve the sentence). Similarly, eligibility is restricted to a certain period when a person violates the Public Offices Election Act or Political Funds Control Act.

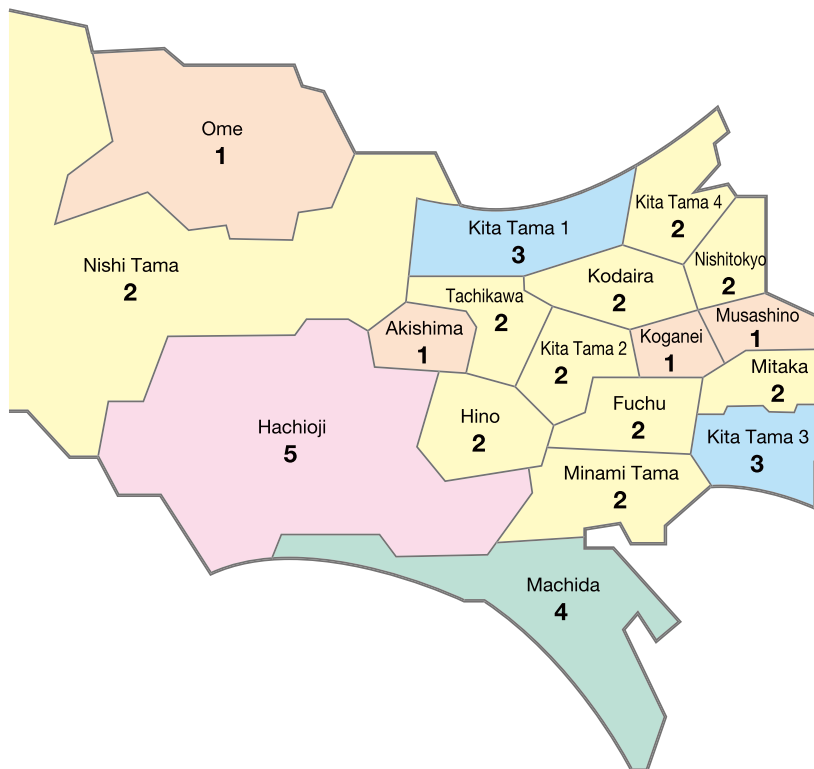


#### (b) Quota and Tenure of the Assembly Members

The number of assembly members is specified by means of an ordinance of Tokyo. The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly has 127 seats, and the tenure of each member is four years.

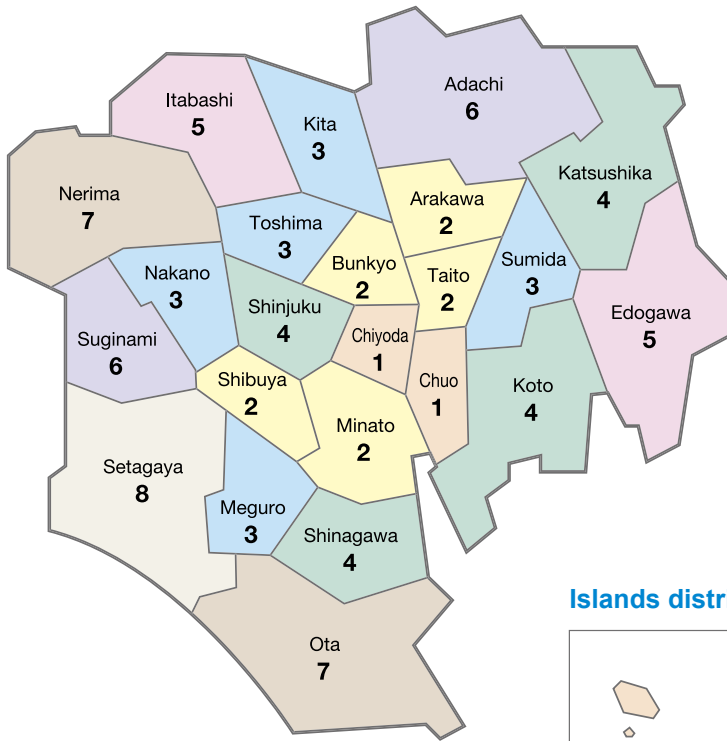
## Quota of Metropolitan Assembly, Electoral Districts, and Number of Members' Seats of Each Electoral District (Revised in July 2020)

### Tama district

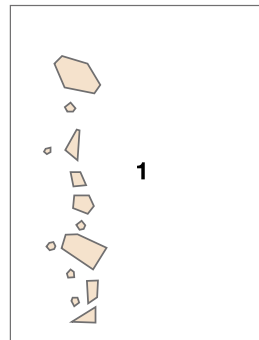


|                  | Number of districts | Number of seats |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 23 special wards | 23                  | 87              |
| Tama district    | 18                  | 39              |
| Islands district | 1                   | 1               |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>42</b>           | <b>127</b>      |

## 23 special wards



## Islands district



## (2) President and Vice President

The assembly elects one president and one vice president among its members.

The president publicly represents the assembly and presides over the plenary sessions. He/she ensures smooth proceedings and maintains order of the assembly. The president also controls and supervises the administrative affairs of the assembly. The vice president takes over the responsibilities of the president in his/her absence.

Tenure of the president and the vice president shall be “the same as that of the assembly membership,” but they may resign with the approval of the assembly.

## (3) Factions (Political Parties)

“Faction” is a group of the assembly members who share the same political principles and policies and collectively take part in political activities. To officially form a faction, it must submit a notice to the assembly. Similar to the National Diet, political activities at the assembly are conducted by factions. Every assembly member normally belongs to a faction, and each faction makes decisions on bills and measures according to its principles and policies.

## 3. Rights of the Assembly

The Metropolitan Assembly is the legislative organ of Tokyo, the local public entity in Japan. It has the right to decide major issues regarding the city of Tokyo. The principal rights granted to the assembly are as follows:

### (1) Right to Vote

Voting is a fundamental right of the assembly and a way of making decisions in Tokyo. The governor cannot execute any major project without the resolution of the assembly in the form of a vote. Issues requiring a vote by the assembly are specified in the Local Autonomy Act. Major issues requiring a vote are as follows:

#### (a) Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal of Ordinances

“Ordinances” are the “laws (within the jurisdiction) of Tokyo.” Some provisions in the ordinances restrict citizens’ rights or impose certain duties on them. The ordinances specify the fares of metropolitan subways and buses, as well as various loan programs.

#### (b) Approval of Municipal Budget

“Budget” is the estimate of annual revenue and expenditures. Projects and programs designed by the Metropolitan Government will not be initiated until the governor proposes the budget and the assembly gives official approval.

(c) Conclusion of Important Contracts Stipulated in the Ordinances

For example, contracts signed by the Metropolitan Government for construction or manufacturing valued at more than JPY 900 million require approval by the assembly.



Resolution of a bill

(2) Right to Elect (the President, the Vice President and the Members of the Election Administration Commission) and Right to Consent

The Metropolitan Assembly elects the president, the vice president and the members of the Election Administration Commission. When the governor appoints important positions (such as vice governor, members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Public Safety Commission and the members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education), he/she needs to gain official approval from the assembly.

(3) Right to Request Inspection and Audit

The Metropolitan Assembly has the right to inspect and audit the administrative affairs of the Metropolitan Government by taking the following measures:

- (a) Inspect documents and financial statements regarding the administration of the Metropolitan Government and request a report from the governor and relevant executive organs.
- (b) Request audit (to the Audit Commissioners).

#### (4) Right to Investigate

To investigate the administration of the Metropolitan Government, the Metropolitan Assembly has the right to request the summoning of voters and related parties, and relevant testimonies and records. These rights are referred to as “Article 100 Investigatory Rights,” since they are stipulated in Article 100 of the Local Autonomy Act. The investigation is legally binding and there is a penalty provision to ensure its effectiveness.

For example, if the assembly asks related parties to present themselves and testify to an investigation, they must not refuse such requests without justifiable grounds. If they refuse, they are denounced by the assembly and fines or imprisonment are imposed.

#### (5) Right to Submit Opinion Briefs

The Metropolitan Assembly has the right to submit opinion briefs regarding issues that greatly influence citizens’ lives to the National Diet or relevant ministries and agencies.

#### (6) No-confidence Motion against the Governor

The governor and the assembly run the Metropolitan Government, respecting each other’s positions and functions. However, if they sharply disagree on certain issues and fail to maintain a balance, the assembly may submit a no-confidence motion against the governor as a last resort. To pass a no-confidence motion, at least two-thirds of the incumbent members at the point of voting must attend the assembly, and at least three-quarters of them must consent to the no-confidence motion. If the assembly passes a no-confidence motion, the governor may counteract it by disbanding the assembly within 10 days of receiving such a motion. If the assembly is not dissolved within the designated period, the governor will automatically lose his/her position.

### 4. Operation of the Assembly

#### (1) Regular Sessions and Extraordinary Sessions

The Metropolitan Assembly holds a “regular session” on a quarterly basis (February, June, September, and December). A regular session lasts approximately 30 days (approximately 60 days for deliberating the municipal budget). It also holds an “extraordinary session” when necessary.

The governor has the right to convene the assembly. However, if the governor receives a request from at least one-fourth of the assembly members or the president of the assembly, the governor must convene an extraordinary session within 20 days of the request.

## (2) Plenary Session

A plenary session is held with the attendance of all assembly members. Members deliberate on the bills and measures submitted to the assembly including its official statements before the assembly decides whether they should be finally approved at the plenary session.

The plenary session opens on the day it is called, with a declaration by the president (in principle, at least half of the members should attend). After the declaration, the president proceeds with the session according to the order of the day.



Plenary Session

## (3) Committees

The assembly needs to efficiently deliberate on a wide range and large number of bills, appeals, petitions and other measures within a limited amount of time. To accomplish this task, it adopts a committee system to enable a specialized and thorough examination of the issues before the resolution of the plenary session.

### (a) Standing Committees

Standing committees are permanently established committees in which members discuss various issues. Currently, there are nine standing committees at the Metropolitan Assembly. They are established in accordance with the ordinance, and each member belongs to one of the following:

- 1) Committee on General Affairs
- 2) Committee on Finance
- 3) Committee on Education
- 4) Committee on Urban Development
- 5) Committee on Welfare
- 6) Committee on Economic Affairs, Port, and Harbor
- 7) Committee on Environment and Construction
- 8) Committee on Public Enterprises
- 9) Committee on Police and Fire Fighting



Standing Committee

#### (b) Special Committees

Special committees are ad hoc committees established to examine specific issues in accordance with the resolutions of the plenary session.

Every year, the assembly establishes the Special Committee on the Budget to examine the budget, the Special Committee on the Settlement of Respective Accounts and the Special Committee on the Settlement of Public Enterprises Accounts to examine financial results.



Room for the Special Committee on the Budget

#### (c) Committee on Assembly Operation

Committee on Assembly Operation is a committee where the members from all factions discuss the operations of the Metropolitan Assembly.



Room for the Committee on Assembly Operation

#### (4) Process of Passing Bills and Measures

In general, bills and measures submitted to the Metropolitan Assembly are sent to committees for examination. Based on the examination by the committees, the bills and measures are resolved during the plenary session. The process of passing bills and measures is as follows:

##### (a) Submission of Bills and Measures to the Plenary Session

The governor, assembly members and committees have the right to submit bills and measures to the plenary session. Assembly member(s) must gain the approval of at least one-twelfth of the quorum for submission, except in cases of opinion briefs. Members(s) who submit bills and measures must explain the content and reasons for submission to the plenary session.

##### (b) Examination at the Committees

Submitted bills and measures are sent to the standing committees for examination.

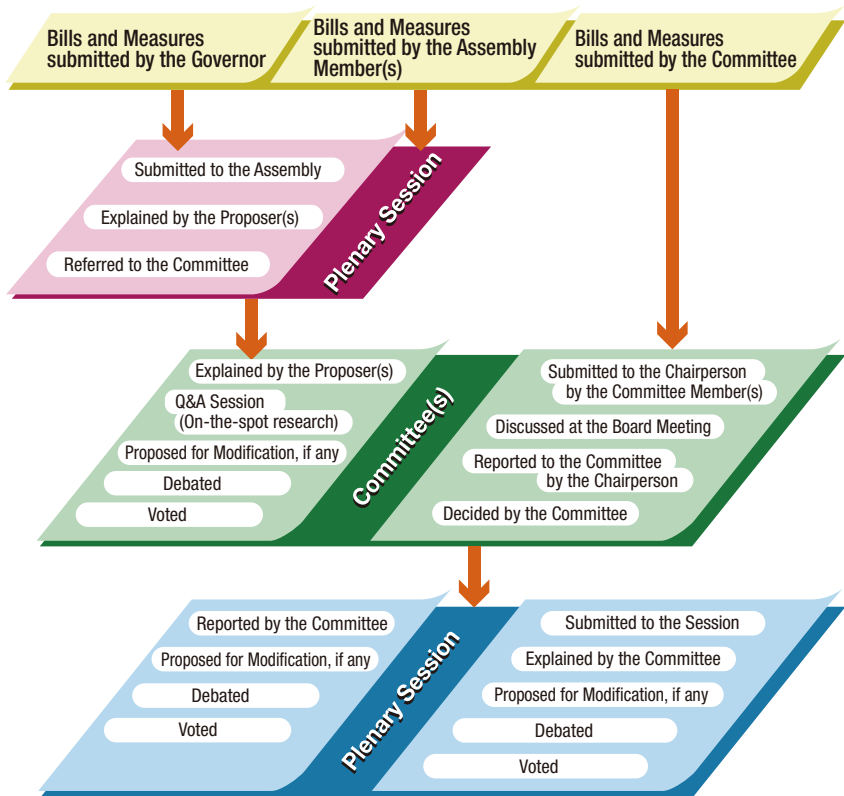
Members resolve extremely urgent matters at the plenary session without examination by the standing committees.

After the standing committees complete the examination, the committee chairpersons report the results to the president of the assembly.

##### (c) Voting at the Plenary Session

Upon receiving the results from the committee chairpersons, the president of the assembly inaugurates the plenary session. Considering the results of the examination, the members resolve bills and measures. When the bills and measures are passed, they are automatically enacted.

## Process of Passing Bills and Measures (Diagram)



### (5) Basic Rules for Operating Sessions

There are various rules in the assembly to operate sessions effectively and democratically.

#### (a) Quorum

A quorum is the number of assembly members required to inaugurate a session and adopt a resolution. More than half the members must attend the sessions. Except under extraordinary circumstances, resolutions without sufficient quorum are considered invalid.

**(b) Absolute Majority**

In principle, the assembly adopts resolutions through a majority vote of the members who attend the session. Although the president is not allowed to vote, he/ she will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

**(c) Sessions Open to the Public**

The public is entitled to observe the sessions, the records of the sessions are publicly accessible, and the press is free to report on the sessions. However, in exceptional cases, sessions will be held behind closed doors with the approval of at least two-thirds of the attending members. Apart from such cases, the plenary sessions and committees are open to the public at the Metropolitan Assembly.

**(d) Non-continuance of Sessions**

The assembly operates independently each term. If it fails to resolve certain matters during the term, the matter should be removed (abolished) from the agenda at the end of the term. In exceptional cases, with a majority vote, it may be deliberated continuously after the end of the term.

**(e) Restriction Against Reopening of Debate**

A matter once deliberated during the session shall not be re-deliberated during the same session.

## Symbol of the Dual Representative System

The round window above the president's seat in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Hall and the round window in the Governor's office in the Tokyo Metropolitan Main Building No.1 are the same size and located at the same height.

This signifies that the Metropolitan Assembly and the Metropolitan Government are independent and equal. In other words, it symbolizes the dual representative system (see P4).



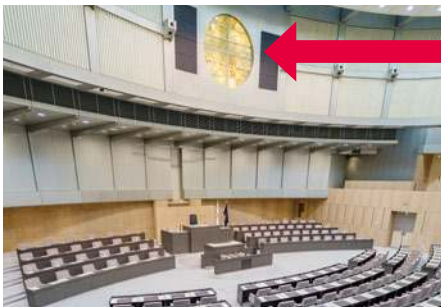
Metropolitan Assembly

&



Metropolitan Government

**Independent  
& Equal**



The Metropolitan Assembly Hall's round window is made of marble known as onyx marble.

It's 3 meters (about 9.8 feet) in diameter!



### III. Assembly and Executive Organ

There are two types of relationships between the legislative and executive organs: the Parliamentary Cabinet System (Note 1) and the Presidential System (Note 2). While the Japanese government has adopted a Parliamentary Cabinet System, all regional governments, including Tokyo, have adopted the Presidential System.

The authorities and roles of the assembly and executive organ are clearly separated. To secure fair administration, both organs are granted the following powers to monitor and maintain a balance between them.



Executive Organ (Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office)

1. The assembly may modify the bills and measures submitted by the governor.
2. If the governor disagrees with the resolution of the assembly, he/she may request a re-deliberation providing appropriate reasons.
3. If a decision of the assembly or an election (of the president, vice president, members of the Election Administration Commission, etc.) is deemed to exceed the authority of the assembly or violate national laws and regulations, the governor must provide appropriate reasons and request re-deliberation or re-election.
4. If the assembly passes a resolution to eliminate or reduce mandatory expenditures and does not change the resolution after the re-deliberation requested by the governor, the governor may implement the budget as originally proposed.
5. If the assembly passes a resolution to eliminate or reduce expenditure for disaster recovery or the prevention of infectious diseases and does not change the resolution after

re-deliberation as requested by the governor, the governor may consider such a decision as a no-confidence motion against him/her.

6. As stated in Section II-3-(6), the assembly has the right to hold a vote to a no-confidence motion against the governor.

7. If the assembly is not able to convene or inaugurate a session, clearly has no time to convene a session due to a matter of utmost urgency, or does not resolve the matter that should be resolved at the assembly, the governor, on behalf of the assembly, may dispose of the matter at his/her discretion.

In such cases, the governor must report his/her decision to the assembly in the following session to gain official approval.

(Note 1) Parliamentary Cabinet System: Executive organ is appointed by an assembly representing the citizens, with the confidence of the assembly as a requisite for its appointment and incumbency. Under this system, the executive organ is held accountable to the assembly (legislative organ).

(Note 2) Presidential System: Both the legislative and executive organs are directly appointed by citizens in an election. Under this system, both organs are held accountable to the citizens of their administrative authority.

## Relationship Between Metropolitan Assembly and a Water Purification Plant

In the Nishi-Shinjuku area where the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office are now located, there used to be a water purification plant for Tokyo, known as the “Yodobashi Water Purification Plant.”

After the Yodobashi Water Purification Plant was shut down in 1965, the construction of skyscrapers began in the 1970s.

Subsequently, in 1991 the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building were relocated to their current positions.



(1960s)

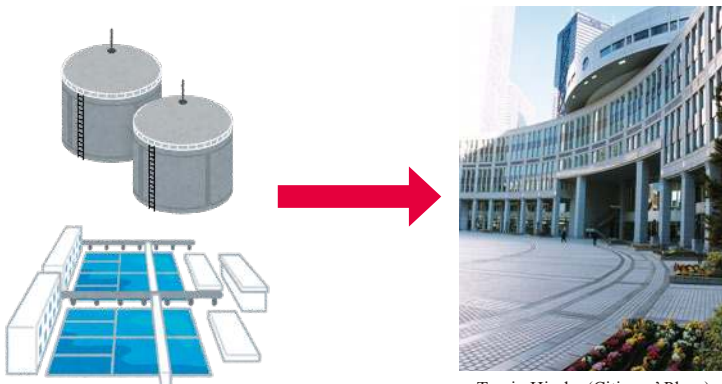


(1970s)



(1990s)

Today, the Tomin Hiroba (Citizens’ Plaza) that connects the Metropolitan Assembly and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is a relaxing space for citizens, with various events also held here. The Tomin Hiroba has implemented environmentally friendly measures, with rainwater gathered and reused as reclaimed water for toilet flushing and watering plants in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings. You might even be able to say this as a trace that this used to be a water purification plant.



Tomin Hiroba (Citizens’ Plaza)

## IV. Citizens and the Metropolitan Assembly

The Metropolitan Assembly makes decisions about Tokyo as a municipal entity, and the governor implements various policies according to such decisions.

Tokyo is theoretically administered by the citizens, but in practice, it is run by the governor and the assembly members, who are elected and entrusted with responsibilities by the citizens.

The relationship between citizens and the assembly can be summarized by the following rights granted to citizens.



## 1. Right to Elect Assembly Members

The right to vote in assembly elections is granted to residents at the age of 18 or higher.

## 2. Right to Make Direct Requests

In principle, Tokyo adopts indirect democracy to run the city by the Metropolitan Assembly and the governor. However, in some cases, it adopts direct democracy to complement indirect democratic systems and enhance citizen autonomy.

(See the “Rights of Direct Request Granted to the Citizens of Tokyo” on the next page)

The rights of direct requests exercisable to the assembly are (1) enactment, amendment, and repeal of ordinances; (2) dissolution of the assembly; and (3) dismissal of the assembly members. They are granted to citizens who have the right to vote in the Metropolitan Assembly elections. These rights are described as follows:

### (1) Right to Request the Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal of Ordinances

The citizens of Tokyo may request that the assembly enact, amend, or repeal ordinances. If a request is recognized as valid, the assembly shall resolve the proposal.

### (2) Right to Request the Dissolution of the Metropolitan Assembly

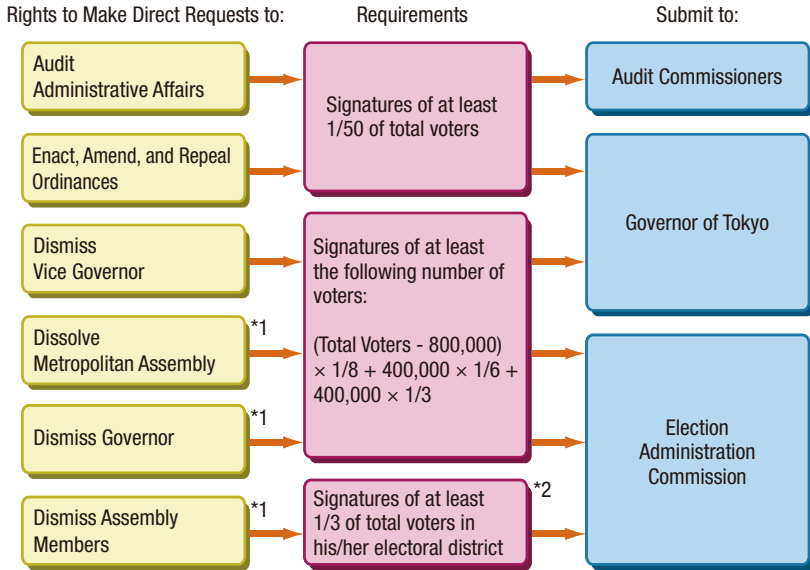
This right is granted to citizens to monitor and maintain the fairness of the assembly, rather than seeking its dissolution. Therefore, citizens must exercise restraint.

For example, the period for receiving a request is limited (requests are not allowed for one year from the election day of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly) and the number of voter signatures is specified in detail. If the request meets all the requirements, dissolution is subject to a vote by all voters in Tokyo. Apart from citizens, the governor has the right to dissolve the assembly as a countermeasure to a no-confidence motion against him/her by the assembly.

### (3) Right to Request the Dismissal of the Metropolitan Assembly Members

The citizens of Tokyo have the right to request the dismissal of assembly members. This is subject to a vote by the voters of the members’ electoral district.

## List of Rights of Direct Request Granted to Citizens of Tokyo

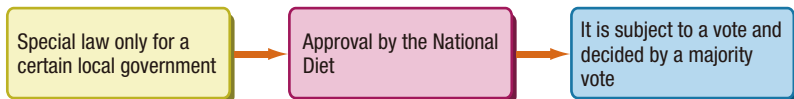


\*1: It is subject to a vote and decided by a majority vote.

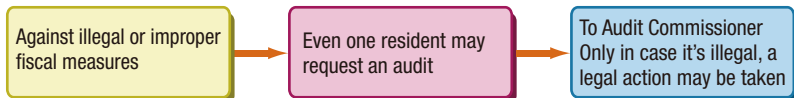
\*2: In case of electoral district with over 800,000 voters  
Signatures of at least the following number of voters:  
 $(\text{Total Voters} - 800,000) \times 1/8 + 400,000 \times 1/6 + 400,000 \times 1/3$   
In case of electoral district with over 400,000 and 800,000 or less voters  
Signatures of at least the following number of voters:  
 $(\text{Total Voters} - 400,000) \times 1/6 + 400,000 \times 1/3$

### Other Rights

#### 《Local Referendum》



#### 《Audit Request and Legal Action by Residents》



### 3. Public Hearings

To ensure a fair discussion of the budget, important issues, appeals, and petitions, the assembly holds public hearings to seek the opinions of interested parties and academic experts.

### 4. Petitions and Appeals

Article 16 of the Constitution of Japan states that: “Every person shall have the right of peaceful petition for the redress of damage, for the removal of public officials, for the enactment, repeal, or revision of laws, ordinances, or regulations, and for other matters; nor shall any person be in any way discriminated against for sponsoring such a petition.” It clearly defines and guarantees the right of petition as a fundamental human right.

The Metropolitan Assembly regularly receives numerous petitions and appeals from citizens. These petitions and appeals are first examined by the committees, and if the assembly decides that they should be responded by the executive organ, they are submitted to the governor. The executive organ, though not legally bound by assembly decisions, reports on the progress of the submitted issues to the assembly and is expected to execute the assembly’s decisions in good faith.

### 5. Observing Assembly Sessions

To ensure fair and thorough discussions by the assembly and to disclose remarks by assembly members, plenary sessions and committees (both regular and extraordinary) are open to the public.

In Japan, plenary sessions at local assemblies are open to the public. Although committee meetings are not guaranteed to be held in public, the Metropolitan Assembly opens both plenary sessions and committees to the public to enable careful discussions under the scrutiny of citizens. In addition, the minutes of sessions/meetings are accessible on the Metropolitan Assembly website and at the Assembly Library.



Assembly Library



## 6. Public Relations

The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly conducts public relations to inform citizens about its systems and activities. As well as providing the mass media such as newspapers and TV broadcasting with information relating to the activities of the Metropolitan Assembly, the Metropolitan Assembly itself publishes printed materials, including newsletters and posters, and disseminates information through TV programs and the internet.

Further, there is a Public Relations Corner in the Metropolitan Assembly Building, where the activities of the Metropolitan Assembly are introduced to visitors.



Public Relations Corner

## 7. Information Disclosure

To ensure an “Open Assembly” in the age of decentralization, the Metropolitan Assembly adopts comprehensive disclosure of information, focusing on the (1) disclosure of regular and extraordinary sessions, (2) proactive disclosure/provision of information, and (3) disclosure of official documents; in accordance with the Ordinance for Information Disclosure in the Metropolitan Assembly of Tokyo.

## V. Metropolitan Assembly and International Exchange

As an assembly of a major global city in Asia, the Metropolitan Assembly actively promotes international exchanges with overseas countries to realize assembly activities suitable to the age of globalization.

Members mutually visit the assemblies of sister and friendship cities and send research delegations overseas to reflect on innovative projects and policies in their activities.

### 1. Exchange with Municipal Assemblies of Friendship Cities

Currently, Tokyo has sister and friendship relations with 12 cities (states/prefectures). To exchange information on municipal policies and deepen mutual understanding and cooperation, the Metropolitan Assembly regularly implements mutual visits between the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal People’s Congress and the Seoul Metropolitan Council.



### Sister and Friendship Cities (States/Prefectures) of Tokyo

| City (Country)   | Date of Signing Agreement |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>New York</b> (United States of America)                            | Feb.29, 1960              |
| 2. <b>Beijing</b> (People’s Republic of China)                           | Mar.14, 1979              |
| 3. <b>Paris</b> (French Republic)  | July 14, 1982             |
| 4. <b>State of New South Wales</b> (Australia)                           | May 9, 1984               |
| 5. <b>Seoul Special Metropolitan City</b> (Republic of Korea)            | Sep. 3, 1988              |
| 6. <b>Special Capital Region of Jakarta</b> (Republic of Indonesia)      | Oct. 23, 1989             |
| 7. <b>State of Sao Paulo</b> (Federative Republic of Brazil)             | June 13, 1990             |
| 8. <b>Cairo</b> (Arab Republic of Egypt)                                 | Oct. 23, 1990             |
| 9. <b>Moscow</b> (Russian Federation)                                    | July 16, 1991             |
| 10. <b>Berlin</b> (Federal Republic of Germany)                          | May 14, 1994              |
| 11. <b>Rome</b> (Republic of Italy)                                      | July 5, 1996              |
| 12. <b>London</b> (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) | Oct. 14, 2015             |

## **2. Overseas Fact-Finding Missions**

The purposes of overseas fact-finding missions are to learn about useful policies and programs carried out overseas and to apply the findings to assembly activities. The assembly launched the overseas fact-finding missions in FY1967.



## **3. Visits of Foreign Officials to the Metropolitan Assembly**

The Metropolitan Assembly has received important figures from all corners of the world, including the mayors and assembly presidents of sister or friendship cities. They are greeted by both the president and the assembly members and given a briefing with a guided tour of the Assembly Hall.

## Metropolitan Assembly Art

So that visitors can gain a sense of familiarity with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings, which symbolize autonomy and culture, various pieces of art are displayed within the premises of the Metropolitan Assembly Building and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings, including sculptures and reliefs created by leading Japanese contemporary artists, leading foreign artists, residents in Tokyo, and young artists.

### [Art displayed in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building (examples)]

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Title            | Headstream   | WAVING FIGURE  |
| Artist           | TADA Minami  | TATEHATA Kakuzo  |
| Materials        | Mirror-coated glass  | Stainless steel  |
| Display Location | Center of the Entrance Hall on the first floor of the Assembly Building            | Center of the Central Assembly Hall on the second floor of the Assembly Building   |
| Photo            |  |  |

Also, in the Tomin Hiroba (Citizens' Plaza), which lies between the Assembly Building and the Government Buildings, a number of works of art are on display, including bronze statues.

Visitors are welcome to appreciate various works of art and feel their aura.

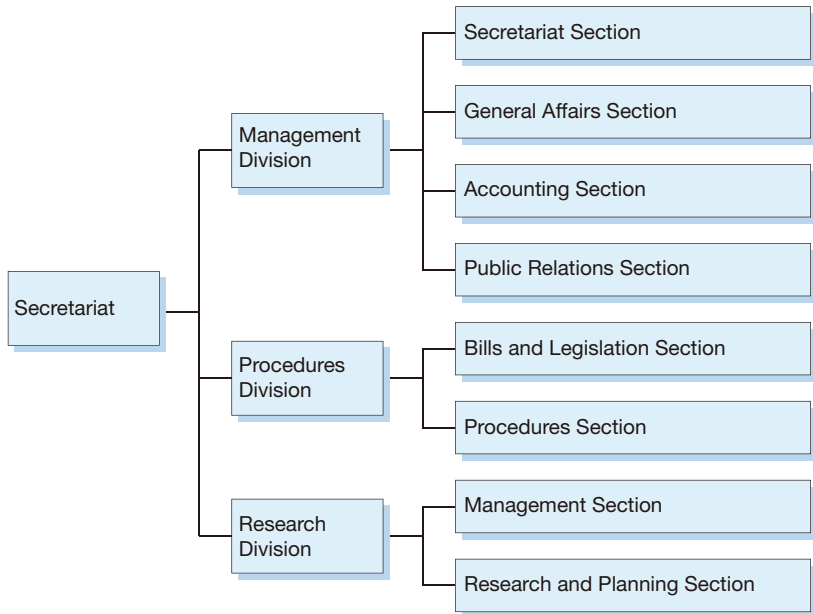


## VI. Secretariat

The assembly has a secretariat to support its activities.

The secretariat has three divisions and works under the Director General who regularly reports on its performance to the assembly president. The secretariat ensures smooth proceedings of the plenary sessions and committees, produces reference materials for the assembly, and conducts research on the administrative matters of the Metropolitan Government. The assembly president appoints all staff members.

Organization Chart (reorganized in April 2020):



# Reference: The Constitution of Japan

## CHAPTER VIII: LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

### Article 92:

Regulations concerning organization and operations of local public entities shall be fixed by law in accordance with the principle of local autonomy.

### Article 93:

The local public entities shall establish assemblies as their deliberative organs, in accordance with law.

### Article 93-II:

The chief executive officers of all local public entities, the members of their assemblies, and such other local officials as may be determined by law shall be elected by direct popular vote within their several communities.

### Article 94:

Local public entities shall have the right to manage their property, affairs and administration, and to enact their own regulations within law.

### Article 95:

A special law, applicable only to one local public entity, cannot be enacted by the National Diet without the consent of the majority of the voters of the local public entity concerned, obtained in accordance with law.





Main Entrance of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building



Green roof of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building



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Management Section, Research Division, Secretariat to the Assembly

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