

## = Sejm of the Duchy of Warsaw =

Sejm of the Duchy of Warsaw ( Polish : Sejm Księstwa Warszawskiego ) was the parliament of the Duchy of Warsaw . It was created in 1807 by Napoleon , who granted a new constitution to the recently created Duchy . It had limited competences , including having no legislative initiative . It met three times : for regular sessions in 1809 and 1811 , and for an extraordinary session in 1812 . In the history of Polish parliament , it succeeded the Sejm of the Polish @-@ Lithuanian Commonwealth and was followed by the Sejm of the Congress Poland .

## = History =

In 1807 Napoleon created the Duchy of Warsaw and granted it a constitution . Like with all Napoleonic legislatures , it was inferior in political power to executive by design .

The Sejm had met three times : for regular sessions in 1809 and 1811 , and for an extraordinary session of 1812 . The Sejm was mainly occupied with administration and financial matters ; its final act , in 1812 , was to create the last Polish confederation , the General Confederation of the Kingdom of Poland .

## = Composition and duration =

The Sejm was composed of two chambers : a chamber of deputies and a senate . The chamber of deputies was composed of 100 deputies , in 1810 increased to 166 . The initial 100 was composed of 60 deputies ( after 1810 , 100 ) elected from the ranks of the nobility ( szlachta ) during the sessions of the local parliaments ( sejmiks ) , and 40 non @-@ noble deputies ( after 1810 , 66 ) , as well as members of the Council of State . The deputy candidates had to be 24 years or older , and government officials , priests or officers in active military service were not eligible for candidacy . They were elected for a nine @-@ year term of office , in three tranches ( elections for a third of the deputies were to be held every three years ) .

The senate was composed of bishops , voivodes and castellans ; all nominated by the king . They numbered six each , in 1810 increased to ten each .

Those enfranchised to vote included landowners , owners of large businesses , clergy , artists , scientists , and the military . Notably , peasants could vote as well , provided they owned the land .

The Sejm session lasted fifteen days , and was convened every two years .

Notable politicians of the Sejm of the Duchy of Warsaw included : Józef Godlewski , Tomasz A. Ostrowski , Stanisław Sołtyk , Stanisław Staszic , Wawrzyniec Surowiecki and Józef Wybicki .

## = Competences =

The competences of the Sejm of the Duchy of Warsaw were limited compared to its predecessor , the Sejm of the Polish @-@ Lithuanian Commonwealth . It had no legislative initiative ( that was limited to the executive , represented by the king and the Council of State ) , and could only accept or refuse ( by simple majority ) the legislation on the issues of treasury ( finances and taxes ) and civil and criminal law , presented to it by the executive . Further , discussions were limited , as only the members of the five @-@ person strong committees ( one for treasury and one for each of the two laws ) , elected in secret ballot and tasked with the analysis of the proposed legislation , and members of the Council of State , had the right to speak . In practice , the members of the Sejm found a way to overcome this limitation , as after the day session would be officially closed , the deputies would remain in the parliament and start a new discussion .

The senate was to supervise the chamber of deputies , ensuring it acts according to the constitution , and ensure the proper procedure during the elections . The senate could object to a legislation , but could be overruled by the king .

The king had the right to dissolve the chamber of deputies , or replace senators with new nominees .

