

40  
40º ANIVERSARIO

PARLAMENTO  
DE GALICIA



# The Power of Speech

40 Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021





Once the Statute of Autonomy of Galicia was approved, the first step to make the new autonomous system official was the constitution of the Parliament of Galicia. Established in December 1981 in Pazo Xelmírez (Santiago de Compostela), it soon relocated to Colexio Fonseca until 1989 when it finally moved to Pazo do Hórreo.

Throughout forty years of activity and eleven legislatures, the Parliament has been made up of 537 deputies, it has had seven Presidents, five men and two women, and five Presidents of the executive power of the region (Xunta de Galicia) have been sworn in by the institution.

Four decades later, it is obvious the importance this political body had in the organization and consolidation of the Galician administration as well as in the development of initiatives which changed all sectors of the Galician society daily life, since the autonomous system is characterised by the provision of social services, basically based on health care and education.

This exhibition summarises the development of this legislative institution as the highest representative body of the Galician people, its evolution, and main activities, such as the approval of 437 laws. The Parliament of Galicia has become the centre of the popular sovereignty and a place of debate, which are the two main functions a representative political assembly must fulfil. That is to say, an institution founded on the power of speech.

**Organizer**

Parliament of Galicia

**Curator**

Ramón Villares

**Documentation**

Miguel Anxo Seixas Seoane

Gustavo Hervella García

**Design**

Xosé Díaz (Imago Mundi)

**Audiovisual Production**

Miguel Anxo Seixas Seoane (Script)

Daniel González Portela (Editing)

**Production and Set Up**

ÁTICA Servizos Culturais

**Special thanks to:**

Parliament of Galicia

Library, Archive, Language Advisory Services,  
and personnel of the Cabinet of the  
Presidency of the Parliament of Galicia

**Collaborating Institutions:**

Arquivo Histórico da USC

Arquivo Valentín Paz-Andrade

Biblioteca e Hemeroteca da USC

Bildarchiv Bayerischer Landtag

Consello da Cultura Galega

Consello de Contas

Departamento de Historia da USC

Destination Rennes / Franck Hamon

El Correo Gallego

Eusko Legebiltzarra / Parlamento Vasco

Fernando Blanco Rajo

Fundación 10 de marzo CC.OO

Fundación Luís Tilve

Funcación Penzol

Fundación A Nosa Terra

Gran Enciclopedia Gallega (GEG)

Miguel Guti

Museo das Peregrinacións e de Santiago

Museo do Pobo Galego

nomesevoces.net (Grupo HISTAGRA-USC)

Parlament de Catalunya

Real Academia Galega (RAG)

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Tribunal Superior de Xustiza da Galicia

Valedor do Pobo

Xarda: Xornalismo audiovisual

**Collaborators:**

Pegerto Saavedra

Xulio Correa

Gonzalo Méndez

Xosé Manoel Núñez Seixas

Xurxo Lobato

Xan Carballa



# The Power of Speech

- 1 Representative Institutions in Galician History
- 2 Old and New European Parliaments
- 3 Trying to Find a Name
- 4 The Statute of Autonomy of Galicia of 1936
- 5 Galicia and the Democratic Transition
- 6 Statute of 1980: “civic sunrise”, *aldraxe* and pact
- 7 The Pre-Autonomy
- 8 First Steps of the Autonomy
- 9 An Itinerant Parliament
- 10 Pazo do Hórreo, Definite Seat
- 11 Spokepersons of the Political Parties
- 12 Political Organization of the Parliament (1981-2021)
- 13 Establishment of the Autonomy: from Albor to Laxe
- 14 Fraga’s Long Term of Office
- 15 From a Bipartite Government to the Return of PP
- 16 The Bureau of the Parliament
- 17 Foundational Laws
- 18 Important Laws Approved by the Parliament
- 19 Legislative Proposals of Popular Initiative
- 20 The Resources of the Parliament
- 21 Statutory Institutions
- 22 Foreign Affairs
- 23 Official Visits to the Parliament
- 24 Parliamentary Scenes



# Representative Institutions in Galician History

The institutions created by the autonomy are new, but there are some historic precedents originated in the ancient Kingdom of Galicia. According to the patriarch Manuel Murguía, these institutions “were born at the same time our autonomy was expiring”.

The most important institutions were the *Xunta* (General Assembly) and the Royal Audience of the Kingdom of Galicia. The first one comprised the lawyers who represented the seven former Galician provinces and the Kingdom in front of the monarchs. The second institution was created by the Catholic Monarchs in 1480 to deal out justice, but it also acquired governmental functions and created a personal “style” when applying the law.

The city of Zamora represented the Kingdom of Galicia in the Castilian Assembly for centuries until the Great Count of Lemos, writer of *El Búho gallego*, regained the right of the Kingdom to vote, but, at that time, the assembly hardly ever met. That

institutional weakness explains why Galicia used to appear completely integrated in the Crown of Castile in the “political map” of Liberal Spain, compared to the Basque-Navarre *fueros* and the Crown of Aragón, “incorporated or assimilated”.



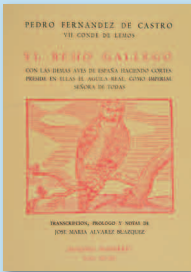
Pedro Teixeira, *Descripción de España y de la costas y puertos de España* (1638)



*Descripción del Reyno de Galicia* by Fernando Ojea (1603)



Bernardo Herbella de Puga, *Derecho práctico i estilos de la Real Audiencia de Galicia* (1768)



Pedro Fernández de Castro, *El búho gallego* (Ed. 1951). (RAG)

*Mapa político de España* by Torres Villegas (1858)





# Old and New European Parliaments



Parliament of Catalonia



Basque Parliament



Parliament of Scotland



Parliament of Brittany



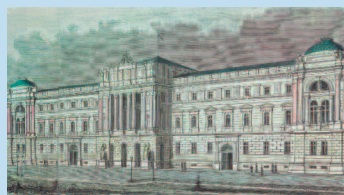
Parliament of Bavaria



Parliament of Wales



Corsican Assembly



Parliament of Galitzia (Austria-Hungary)

Emperor Franz Joseph I Visiting the Parliament of Galitzia (1870)



# Trying to Find a Name

Depending on the historic time and place, the definition of a body which assists and controls governmental decisions varies. The two classical terms to refer to the institutions are Parliament (British tradition) or Assembly (inspired by the French system).

In the case of Galicia, a definition of Galician power came after several previous attempts. From the 1887 “*Proyecto de Estado Gallego*” (Galician State Project) to the II Republic, Assembly was the word used to refer to the body representing the citizenship and Council to refer to the executive power, as stated on the “*Anteproyecto*” of SEG (1931). In the Statute agreed in June 1936, the name *Xunta de Galicia* appears for the first time, as well as Legislative Assembly and President of the Autonomous Region.

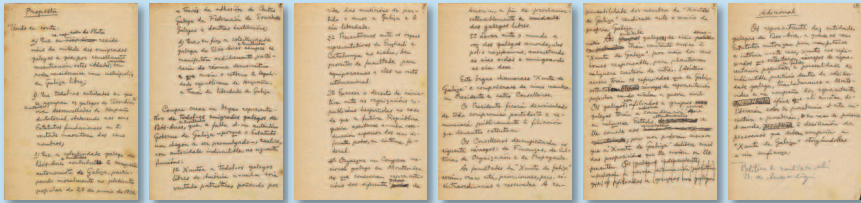
Those terminological doubts were still present among exiled Galicians. Therefore, the term finally chosen to define the executive power of the region was *Consello de Galiza* (Council of Galiza), founded by Alfonso Castelao in 1944. During the democratic transition several alternatives coexisted; the “*Estatuto dos Dezaseis*” (Statute approved by sixteen representatives of the political parties of the region of the time) chooses Assembly, *Xunta* and President of Galicia, until the 1980 Statute states on art.9 that “the powers of the Autonomous Community will be exerted by the Parliament, the Xunta and its President”.



Proyecto de Constitución para el futuro estado gallego, 1887. (RAG)



Segundo Moreno Barcia. (GEG)



Text by Castelao written before the constitution of the *Consello de Galiza*, corrected in Montevideo, Ca. 1943 (Fundación Penzol)



Meeting of *Consello de Galiza* with representatives of Galeuzca

Flag of *Consello de Galiza*





# The Statute of Autonomy of Galicia of 1936



**The Power of Speech** PARLAMENTO DE GALICIA  
40 Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021



Public Announcement of the Local Council of Santiago summoning the Assembly of Municipalities (1932). (AHUS-USC)



Poster by Luis Seoane made on the occasion of the voting of the Statute of Autonomy of 1936

Presentation of the Statute of Autonomy of Galicia at the Assembly of the Republic: López Bouza, Rajoy Leloup, Viana Esperón, Castelao, Anxel Casal and his wife, María Miramontes. (HISTAGRA-USC)

The Republican Constitution of 1931 allowed that, besides the provinces, the organization of territorial power was exerted in “autonomous regime” in the regions which were able to promote their Statutes, which needed to be passed by “two-thirds” of the electoral list and, then, by the Parliament. Catalonia achieved the autonomy in 1932 and the Basque Country while immersed in battle. Galicia remained “at the gates”.

The Galician Statute was promoted by republicans and Galicianists. They agreed a text in 1932, but it was not put to a vote. Referendum was celebrated in June 1936, after the triumph of *Fronte Popular*, joined by the majority of the Galicianist Party, commanded by Castelao and Bóveda.

The results of that referendum exceeded constitutional demands and that day became a civil party, although the Statute was delivered to the Republican Assembly days before of the revolt of the African army and, consequently, it did not get the parliamentary approval, neither in the assembly celebrated in Montserrat (1938) nor in Mexico (1945), already in the exile.



Statute delegates. Drawing by Francisco Vázquez Díaz, “Compostela”, 1936. (Museo das Peregrinacións e de Santiago)



Cover of the Statute of Galicia designed by Camilo Díaz Ballo



Major López Pol communicates the emigrants from Buenos Aires the approval of the project of the Statute by the Assembly of Municipalities (1932). (Newspaper Archive of the University of Santiago de Compostela)



Celebration of the 50 Anniversary of the approval of the Statute of 1936 with Bibiano F. Osorio-Tafall, former president of the Central Committee of the Autonomy. (Parliament of Galicia)





# Galicia and the Democratic Transition

Besides democracy, the recognition of the autonomy was generally agreed by the political forces and that fact was partially reflected in the Constitution of 1978, when they mention the existence of "nationalities and regions" within the Spanish territory or two "territories that approved the Statutes of Autonomy in the past" (Second Transitory Provision) which reflects the intention of referring to the republican memory.

The political evolution during the transition experimented many conflicts and agreements. Negotiations between the government of Adolfo Suárez and the political forces of the opposition had a particular expression in the "Commission of the Nine" when the

"Galician seat" was occupied by Valentín Paz-Andrade and proposals (electoral law, recognition of autonomous communities) were agreed and included in the Constitution.

The presence of Galician parties or political forces during those agreements was weak due to the victory of the centre right on the first democratic elections of the autonomy in June 1977, unlike what happened in the other two "historical nationalities".



Poster of Luis Seoane for the candidates of *Democrática Galega* (1977)

Meeting of the "Commission of the Nine" (24 February, 1977), attended by liberal, social democratic, socialist and communist forces of the opposition and representatives of the three "nationalities" (Jordi Pujol, Julio de Jauregui and Valentín Paz-Andrade)



Pre-Autonomic government meeting at Pazo de Raxoi, 28 June, 1979



The "Comision of the Sixteen" signs the preliminary Project of Statute





# Statute of 1980: "civic sunrise", *aldraxe* and pact

The history of the current Statute of Autonomy was as complicated as the history of its predecessor in 1936, or even more. The autonomy of Galicia was a more transversal demand than just the political representation product of the elections of 1977, as reflected on the Christmas demonstrations of 1977. The demonstration in Vigo was defined as a day of "civic sunrise".

The drafting of the Statute experienced several phases. First, the proposal of the "Commission of the Sixteen", promoted by the President Antonio Rosón. Second, a new text written by the Assembly of Galician Members of the Parliament, which was debated in the Congress of Deputies of Spain and approved thanks to the votes of UDC (Democratic Union of Catalonia) but the competences demanded were cut due to the "autonomic harmonization" that the



Blanco Amor at the demonstration in Ourense, 1977. (Photography by the newspaper La Región)



Pactos del Hostal

other two hegemonic parties defended (UDC and PSOE). That text, called *aldraxe* (mistreatment) by the opposition, caused a second wave of political mobilization that obliged UDC to accept an agreement or political dialogue in order to put the Galician Statute at the same level as the ones already approved (Catalonia and the Basque Country). In September 1980, the "*Hostel Pact*" opened the door to the voting and final approval of Statute by the *Cortes Generales* (Spanish Senate and Congress of Deputies).



Posters of the political parties for the campaign of the Statute of Autonomy (1980)

Demonstration pro-autonomy in Vigo (December 4, 1977) with the representatives of all political parties and independent personalities





# The Pre-Autonomy

**B**efore the approval of the 1978 Constitution, the organization of the territorial power in Spain started through pre-autonomic systems, in a process of generalization of the autonomies ("one-size-fits-all"), after solving the particularities of Catalonia (the return of Josep Tarradellas) and the Basque Country.

In the case of Galicia, it was not possible to bring any political leader back from exile. The first name suggested to the President Suárez was Osorio-Tafall. Thus, the organization of the pre-autonomy was entrusted to a president who belonged to UCD (Democratic Centre Union), Antonio Rosón, who took office on April 1978. A year later, he was substituted by Xosé Quiroga, from the same political party.



Constitution of Xunta de Galicia in 1978 in the presence of two ministers Manuel Clavero and Pio Cabanillas

The execution of the Galician pre-autonomy was hindered by the scarce resources and internal conflicts within the UCD party. Even then, President Rosón could form a politically plural pre-autonomic government, encouraged the legislative work with the support of the Commission of the Sixteen and established symbolic milestones such as the Day of Galicia.



Pre-autonomic government comprised by UCD and PSOE members, as well as representatives of the provincial Governments and the Galicianist Marino Dónega



Antonio Rosón and other personalities at the balcony of Pazo de Raxoi, July 25, 1978. (Photography by Manuel Blanco)

Xosé Quiroga congratulates Antonio Rosón after being elected as the first President of the Parliament of Galicia (1981)





# First Steps of the Autonomy

Once the conflict of the *aldraxe* Statute was solved, the referendum of the Statute was extremely positive, but with a really low electoral participation (abstention of 71.7%), a figure that will not be registered ever again.

The autonomy started in 1981, when the first elections to the Parliament of Galicia were called. The political party AP (Popular Alliance) won the elections with 26 Members of Parliament

chosen, two more than UCD, although between the two of them had a great majority (50 out of 71 Members of Parliament).

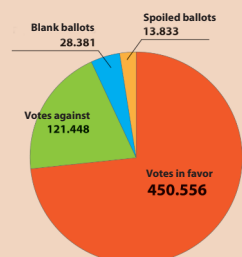
The first autonomic Chamber held its constitutional session in Pazo de Xelmírez on December 19, 1981, date that coincided with the date the Municipality Assembly approved the 1932 Autonomic Draft Bill.

The Parliament, on its inauguration, elected as President of Xunta de Galicia the AP candidate, Xerardo Fernández Albor, supported by the AP and UCD deputies as well as three out of two of the Galicianist parties, independent from PSOE. Like this, for the first time in history, the process of institutionalization of Galicia's self-government started.



Xerardo Fernández Albor is sworn in as president in San Domingos de Bonaval, next to Panteón de Galegos Ilustres, 1982. (Parliament of Galicia)

Anque chova, vota.  
Pídecho Galicia.



Estatute Referendum  
(December 21, 1980)

Electors 2.172.898  
Voters 614.218



The Powers of the Statute of Autonomy: Parliament of Galicia, Xunta de Galicia, High Court of Justice of Galicia



High Court of Justice of Galicia. (TSXG)

First plenary session of the Parliament of Galicia presided over a Temporary Bureau comprised by the eldest and youngest MP's, Manuel Iglesias Corral and Mariano Rajoy Brey, among others. (Parliament of Galicia)



# An Itinerant Parliament

The pre-autonomic Galician government did not inherit any infrastructure or had any building that, apart from having the necessary space to develop the functions of the institution, represented its symbolic existence. Something similar happened to the Parliament, they had to look for places to constitute and carry on their duties. This was an itinerant institution, as its predecessor, the Galician Audience, until it settled in A Coruña in Felipe II times.



Facade of Pazo de Fonseca, seat of the Parliament until 1989

Due to this fact, its seats were historical buildings located in Santiago de Compostela. First, Pazo de Xelmírez, then the Coffered Hall of Colexio de Fonseca, belonging to University of Santiago. The first legislature and almost the whole second legislature were carried out there, in a very limited space that favoured an intense relationship among the members of the institution. With this decision, made before the approval of the Law of Autonomy Seats, the Parliament helped Santiago to become the new capital of the autonomic institutions.



Deputies exit Pazo de Xelmírez after the first plenary session (1981)



Plenary session at Pazo de Xelmírez (1981). (Photography by Xurxo Lobato)



Session of the Parliament at Colexio de Fonseca (1984). (Photography by Xurxo Lobato)

Session of the Parliament at Pazo de Xelmírez, with the government of Xunta de Galicia on the left (Photography by Xurxo Lobato)





# Pazo do Hórreo, Definite Seat



The Power of Speech  
PARLAMENTO DE GALICIA  
40 Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021

The Parliament had to have a stable seat; that was an institutional and political obligation. Instead of promoting the construction of a new building, they chose a multidisciplinary place which was not related to the parliamentary function. The decision was made by the two presidents of the autonomic institutions, after the acceptance of central and municipal powers.

The seat of the Parliament, promoted by Euxenio Montero Ríos, was built to be a veterinary school and, later, it became the seat of the Biological Mission of Galicia for several years. Afterwards, it became a military quarter, until the Spanish Ministry of Defence sold it to the regional government.

The Galician Parliament was refurbished and became a place deserving of its functions, with a comfortable Chamber and adequate workspaces for the Commissions and Parliamentary Groups; a library, an archive and a valuable art collection which made this building the perfect place to exert the power of speech.



The building when it was a Veterinary School



Pazo do Hórreo nowadays. (Parliament of Galicia)



Signature of the purchase of the building, with the presence of Narcís Serra, Fernández Albor, Antonio Rosón and Xerardo Estévez



Farewell of military troops



Visit to the construction site



Chamber of the Parliament, decorated with a stained-glass by Isaac Díaz Pardo

The President Tomás Pérez Vidal opens the new seat of the Parliament (1989)





# Spokepersons of the Political Parties



**The Power of Speech** PARLAMENTO DE GALICIA  
40 Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021

The Galician autonomy shares the political model of the democratic transition, based on the hegemony of the political parties and the Parliament as this is the place where, among other authorities, the President of the regional executive power (Xunta de Galicia) is elected.

The composition of the Parliament reflects the importance of the political parties. The ideological diversity showed a continuous hegemony of centre right political forces (AP and PP) and a more variable position of the left forces, with the constant presence of PSdeG (PSOE) and BNG, and Esquerda Galega, Coalición Galega, En Marea or PCG intermittently.

The parliamentary groups formed during successive legislatures coincided with the afore-mentioned plurality. Although there is not a Galician political party system, its rhythm shows a clear specificity in the Spanish autonomic context.

One of the most decisive debates of the Parliamentary Chamber is the investiture of the President of the Xunta. More than two dozen of members participated in the election, some of them even six times.



Women deputies of the parliament in 1992. (Parliament of Galicia)



Carlos Aymerich    Xosé Luis Barreiro Rivas    Xosé M. Beiras    Gonzalo Caballero    Xoaquín F. Leiceaga



Manuel Fraga Iribarne    Fernando González Laxe    Pablo González Marín    Ángel Guereiro    Manuel Iglesias Corral



Francisco Jorquera    Claudio López Garrido    Camilo Nogueira    Emilio Pérez Touriño    Ramón Piñero



Jaime Pita Varela    Ana Pontón    Pedro Puy Fraga    Anxo Quintana    Ismael Rego



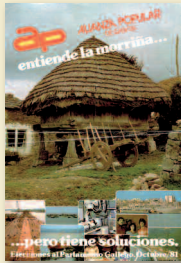
Manuel Ruiz Rivas    C. Sánchez Castelleiras    Antón Sánchez Presedo    M. Vázquez Fernández    V. M. Vázquez Portomele



Francisco Vázquez    Luis Villares

Deputies who participated in the inauguration sessions of five Presidents of Xunta de Galicia (alphabetical order). (Parliament of Galicia)

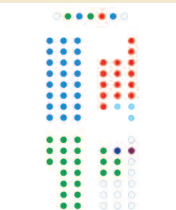
Propaganda posters of the elections to the Parliament of Galicia



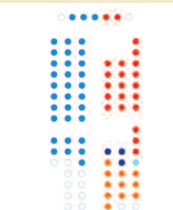
# Political Organization of the Parliament (1981-2021)



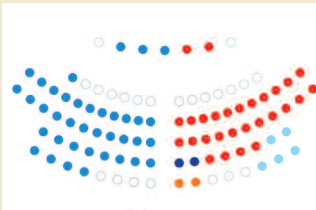
**The Power of Speech** PARLAMENTO DE GALICIA  
40 Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021



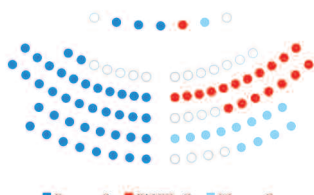
**First legislature**  
1981-1985



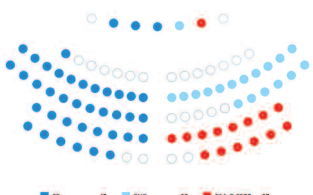
**Second legislature**  
1985-1989



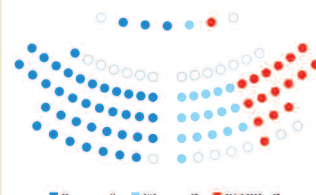
**Third legislature**  
1990-1993



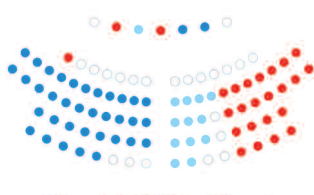
**Fourth legislature**  
1993-1997



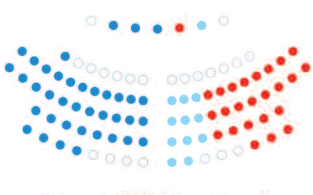
**Fifth legislature**  
1997-2001



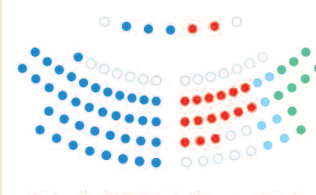
**Sixth legislature**  
2001-2005



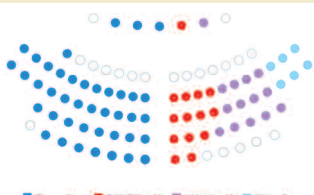
**Seventh legislature**  
2005-2009



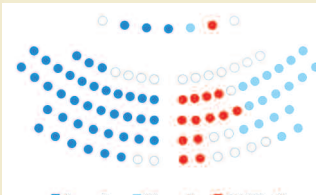
**Eighth legislature**  
2009-2012



**Ninth legislature**  
2012-2016



**Tenth legislature**  
2016-2020



**Eleventh legislature**  
2020-



# Establishment of the Autonomy: from Albor to Laxe

The first decade of the autonomic regime was more volatile regarding the parliamentary alliances than the ideological profile of the parties belonging to the institution. At that time, the Xunta de Galicia had two different presidents and several governments of changeable geometry.

The first government of President Albor did not hold the majority during the first year, until UCD agrees with AP a stable parliamentary support and the presence of three of its deputies in important *Consellerías* of the regional government (Economy, Education and Healthcare). The second autonomic elections neither resulted in a stable majority, fact that favoured the successive changes of the government, although they were caused by different problems.

In November 1986, after several *conselleiros* left the government, including Vice-president Xosé Luis Barreiro, President Albor formed a new government but still without a stable parliamentary majority. Less than a year after, a rift between the members of the group *Coalición Galega* and the former AP allowed the "Pacto dos Tilos" ("Tilos Pact") to happen. The socialist candidate, González Laxe, got a vote of no confidence against Albor approved in order to lead a new government comprised by socialists, *Coalición Galega* members, AP former members and Barreiro as the new Vice-president. This government lasted two years and a half, until the arrival of Fraga (February 1990).



Fernández Albor is re-elected as president after the 1985 elections. (Parliament of Galicia)



Poster of PSOE (1985). (Fundación Luis Tilve)



The remains of Castela, Lavacolla airport (1984). (Parliament of Galicia)



Poster of AP on their first elections, with Fraga and Barreiro. (HISTAGRA-USC)

Fernando González Laxe swears in as President of the Xunta, after winning the vote of non-confidence procedures (September 1987). (Parliament of Galicia)



# Fraga's Long Term of Office

**M**anuel Fraga Iribarne, who supported the candidates of his party (*"Galego coma ti"*) during the first steps of the autonomy, declared his candidacy for the election in 1989. He won by absolute majority, 38 seats, a result that he would get repeatedly on his three next candidacies. He was the President of Xunta de Galicia for almost 16 years.

In addition to his governmental duties, he tried to adapt or review some Galician symbolic models. By using the concept of "self-recognition", he tried to launch the idea of a "single administration" as a management alternative or the Senate reform. He also paid special attention to foreign affairs, especially with the Ibero-American countries and Portugal by promoting cross-border politics and Jubilee Years since 1993.

During his term of office, the reform of the Galician electoral law modified the composition of the Parliament, which was reduced to three political forces. The BNG, led by Xosé Manuel Beiras, gained special prominence. Towards the end of his governance years, the political position of his party started to lose interest in local elections and the Prestige catastrophe, which generated the *"Plan Galicia"*, affected the party negatively.



Fraga Iribarne, at the stairs of the Parliament after being elected as the President of the Xunta. (Parliament of Galicia)



González Laxe leaves the Parliament after being elected as Senator in 1990. (Parliament of Galicia)



Manuel Fraga signs the Book of Honour of the Parliament (2001). (Parliament of Galicia)

Disagreements and agreements between Manuel Fraga and Xosé Manuel Beiras. (Parliament of Galicia)





# From a Bipartite Government to the Return of PP



Emilio Pérez Touriño swears in as President of the Xunta (2005). (Parliament of Galicia)



Emilio Pérez Touriño and Anxo Quintana in the inauguration (August 2005). (Parliament of Galicia)

Members of the Commission of the reform of the Statute, March 2006. (Parliament of Galicia)



Since June 2005 election, a new political panorama started. PSOE (25 seats) and BNG (13 seats) agreed to govern together, with Emilio Pérez Touriño as President of Xunta de Galicia and Anxo Quintana as Vice-President. During this term, they tried to change the Statute of Autonomy, but it was not approved.

The beginning of the economic crisis in 2008 and the internal conflicts of the governmental coalition ended in the electoral absolute majority of the PP, led by Alberto Núñez Feijóo.

At this point starts the second period of the PP political hegemony; this new government will obtain three successive absolute majorities. Throughout the two first legislatures the regional government had to carry out budgetary restrictions. The political composition of the Parliament also experimented significant changes with new political parties appearing in the political scene, such as *Alternativa Galega de Esquerdas* (AGE) or *En Marea*. In 2020 elections, *En Marea* did not get any representatives chosen while BNG raised its number of votes and PSOE remained stable. Regarding the results in the elections, the profile of this new period looked like Fraga Iribarne's, although the management style was different.



Alberto Núñez Feijóo swears in as President of the Xunta of Galicia (September 5, 2020). (Parliament of Galicia)

Núñez Feijóo on his first day as the President of Xunta de Galicia (2009). (Parliament of Galicia)



# The Bureau of the Parliament



Bureau of the first Parliament of Galicia (1981). (Parliament of Galicia)



Funeral of Antonio Rosón (1986). (Parliament of Galicia)



Pérez Vidal, second president of the Parliament of Galicia. (Parliament of Galicia)



Victorino Núñez presiding over the Parliament (1989). (Parliament of Galicia)

The Presidents of the Parliament throughout the legislatures: Antonio Rosón, Pérez Vidal, Victorino Núñez, García Leira, Dolores Villarino, Pilar Rojo and Miguel Ángel Santalices. (Parliament of Galicia)

As a basic institution of the Galician power, the Parliament was led with the same stability as the executive power, although the presidency did not register such long terms of office as the government did. The first president, Mr. Antonio Rosón died while he was in office, and Mr. Tomás Pérez Vidal succeed him until the end of the second legislature. During the long term of office of Mr. Fraga Iribarne, the presidency was held by Mr. Victorino Núñez, who belonged to the party *Centristas de Ourense*, and Mr. Xosé María García Leira, PPdG.

Even if the Bureau of the Parliament reflects the political orientation of the Chamber, the presidency remained stable except for the seventh legislature (2005-2009) when the presidency was held by the socialist deputy Ms. Dolores Villarino. Since 2009 elections, the presidency belonged to the PP with Ms. Pilar Rojo and the current President since 2016, Mr. Miguel Ángel Santalices Vieira. Three presidencies were held by deputies from Ourense, two from Lugo and two from Pontevedra. The map of the presidency of the Parliament shows the political hegemony of the Atlantic provinces.



Constitution of the Bureau of the Parliament (2020). (Parliament of Galicia)





# Foundational Laws



Demonstration in A Coruña for the settling of Xunta de Galicia into the city

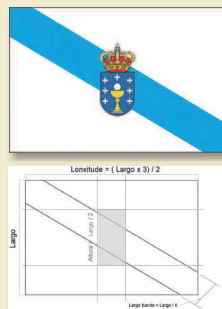


Opening of RTVG, in 1985, by the Vice-President Xosé Luis Barreiro Rivas

The first steps of an institution leave a mark on its future history. It is important to mention some basic or foundational laws as well as strategic decisions which allowed the establishment of the autonomy. Within those decisions, the purchase of buildings for the new administration (O Hórreo and San Caetano), both product of the construction of the monumental area of the city promoted by Montero Ríos, was decisive.

Among the foundational laws, basic for the identity of the autonomy, we must mention the laws related to the seat of the governmental institutions (Parliament and Xunta in Santiago de Compostela; High Court of Justice of the Autonomous Community in A Coruña) and the choice of the official symbols of Galicia, based on the tradition inaugurated by the regionalism at the end of the XIX century (flag and hymn).

Two laws were basic to mark the cultural course of the autonomy: The Law of Linguistic Standardisation, supported by the whole Chamber, and the Law of Creation of a Galician Television Channel (CRTVG), thanks to which the Galician language appeared on the media for the first time and completed the process of linguistic standardisation at an educational and institutional level.



Official design of the Galician flag

X. L. Barreiro Rivas (AP), Ramón Piñeiro (among other deputies who do not belong to PSdeG-PSOE) and Camilo Nogueira (EG), main defenders the Law of Linguistic Standardisation



# Important Laws Approved by the Parliament

<b>1983</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Linguistic Standardisation</li></ul>	<b>1984</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Symbols</li><li>• Law of Creation of a Galician Television Channel (CRTVG)</li></ul>	<b>1985</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Maritime Fishing</li></ul>	<b>1988</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan of Scientific Investigation</li></ul>	<b>1989</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Galician Health Care System (SERGAS)</li><li>• Ordinance of the Galician University System</li></ul>
<b>1995</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Cultural Heritage</li><li>• Law of Solid Urban Waste</li></ul>	<b>1999</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Audiovisual</li></ul>	<b>2001</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Preservation of the Nature</li></ul>	<b>2002</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Urban Ordinance and Protection of Rural Areas</li></ul>	<b>2004</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Galician Law of Gender Equality</li></ul>
<b>2006</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Galician Civil Rights</li><li>• Law of the Book and the Reading</li></ul>	<b>2007</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Galician Law of Prevention and Management of Gender Based Violence</li></ul>	<b>2008</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Mining Ordinance</li><li>• Law of Protection of the Landscape</li></ul>	<b>2009</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Wind Canon and Environmental Management Funds de Compensación Ambiental</li></ul>	<b>2011</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of the Galician Autonomous Community Heritage</li><li>• Law of Land Mobility</li></ul>
<b>2012</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Mounts</li></ul>	<b>2013</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of the University System</li><li>• Ley de la Law of Galleguism</li></ul>	<b>2014</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law Paz-Andrade</li><li>• Law of Equal Treatment of LGTBI People</li><li>• Law of Legislative Proposals of Popular Initiative</li></ul>	<b>2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</li></ul>	<b>2021</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law of Ordination of Territory</li></ul>

Debate of the Law of the Land (2010): Carlos Aymerich, Tereixa Paz, Teresa Táboas, Román Rodríguez, Mar Barcón, Carmen Gallego, Manuel Ruiz Rivas and Xoaquín Fernández Leiceaga. (Parliament of Galicia)

Number of laws approved in each legislature

Legislatures	Total
First Legislature (1982-1985)	40
Second Legislature (1986-1989)	42
Third Legislature (1990-1993)	44
Fourth Legislature (1994-1997)	44
Fifth Legislature (1998-2001)	32
Sixth Legislature (2002-2005)	39
Seventh Legislature (2005-2008)	54
Eighth (2009-2012)	51
Ninth Legislature (2013-2016)	54
Tenth Legislature (2017-2020)	22
Eleventh Legislature (2020- )	14





# Legislative Proposals of Popular Initiative

The members of political assemblies represent the interests and wishes of their electors, but they are also able to incorporate to debates social or cultural proposals as well as proposals of transversal nature. The Parliament of Galicia legalized that external entities and civil society could present proposals that, endorsed by a substantial number of signatories, could become laws.

The topics of the initiatives that have been promoted by a high number of citizens until now and some of them even approved, referred to issues such as gender equality, the teaching of the subject of Philosophy at school or the cultural opening of the region to Portuguese-speaking countries. Due to its symbolic nature, there is a law is known by the name of its promotor Valentín Paz-Andrade; an acknowledgement to the work he developed with the aim of achieving the understanding of the Portuguese culture and literature by the Galician society.



Handing in signatures to support a Legislative Proposal of Popular Initiative. (Parliament of Galicia)



Pride demonstration 2018, A Coruña. (Xarda. Xornalismo audiovisual)



Homage to Clara Campoamor, with the recreation of the debate for the right of women to vote in the Assembly of the II Republic she participated in. (Parliament of Galicia)



Legislative Proposal of Popular Initiative to include the subject of History of the Philosophy in baccalaureate studies, 2017. (Parliament of Galicia)



Debate about the Law Paz-Andrade. (Parliament of Galicia)

Debate about a Legislative Proposal of Popular Initiative. (Parliament of Galicia)



# The Resources of the Parliament



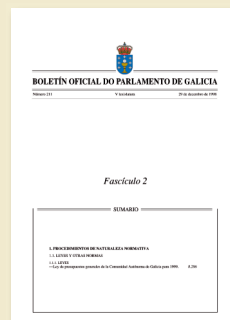
**The Power of Speech** PARLAMENTO DE GALICIA  
40th Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021

Once the Parliament had its permanent seat, it started to get resources to help its members, mainly with libraries and archives, as most parliaments do. However, it also organised cultural activities, supported singular researches monetarily, supported Galician artists, and received personal donations.

An example of the investigations afore mentioned, was the assignment of the review of Castelao's book *Sempre en Galiza* and some examples of donations were the personal documents of Carvalho Calero, The Villar Ponte brothers or Elena Quiroga. It also preserves documents of the *Consello de Galiza*. However, the most important resources of the parliament are the works of art of contemporary Galician painters: Maside, Colmeiro, Seoane, Laxeiro, Lamazares or Quessada, among others. It also gathers sculptures of Leiro, Silverio Rivas, Acisclo or Bucínos and a series of portraits of its presidents. Thanks to all these resources, little by little, the Parliament is making its own corporate identity.



Library of the Parliament of Galicia



An essential resource of the Parliament, the *Boletín Oficial*, that has changed several times throughout history



Stained-glass designed by Isaac Díaz Pardo for the Chamber of the Parliament of Galicia

Victorino Núñez and Ramón Villares give a copy from the critical edition of the book *Sempre en Galiza* to Teresa Rodríguez Castelao (1992). (Parliament of Galicia)



Acisclo Manzano, Victorino Núñez and Xaime Quessada at the presentation of the exhibition *Galicia hoxe, Galicia sempre*, the first one held at the Parliament of Galicia (1993). (Parliament of Galicia)





# Statutory Institutions

Basic institutions of the Galician Autonomy (legislative, executive, and judicial) are described on the first title of the current Statute. But the Statute also states that the Autonomous Community can create other institutions entitled to carry out control, management, or promotion duties. All of them must handle the annual report of their activities to the parliament.

The *Consello da Cultura Galega* was created by the approval of the law of the parliament *Lei 8/1983* according to art. 32 of the Statute. Their members are representatives of their institutions and authorities at a personal level. The Ombudsman was also included in the Statute of Galicia and created by the *Lei 5/1984* and called *Valedor do Pobo*, defined as high commissioner for the defence of the rights and freedom of the citizens. The representative will be elected by the qualified majority of the parliament. The *Consello de Contas* was created by the *Lei 8/1985* as a body to control the economic and financial activity of Galicia, it is comprised by five members chosen by the qualified majority of the Parliament.



Opening of the seat of the Ombudsman (1993)



First meeting of *Consello de Contas*, constituted in 1993 with Carlos G. Otero Díaz as president



The head of *Consello de Contas*, Xosé A. Redondo, gives the President of the Parliament, Miguel Santalices, the Annual Memory, 2017



Seat of the Ombudsman



Seat of *Consello de Contas*

Seat of *Consello da Cultura Galega*





Meeting of the presidents of Regional Parliaments at the Senate



Miguel Santalices welcomes the President of the Legislative Assembly of the Region of Azores (2017). (Parliament of Galicia)

Plenary of COPREPA (Conference of Presidents of Regional Parliaments) at the Parliament of Galicia (March 5, 2012)





# Official Visits to the Parliament



Official visit of Prince Felipe (1998).  
(Parliament of Galicia)



Visit of the President of Argentina Carlos Menem (1994). (Parliament of Galicia)



Visit of the President of Uruguay Luis Alberto Lacalle (1990). (Parliament of Galicia)



Visit of Michael Barnier, EU Commissioner of Regional Policy (2001). (Parliament of Galicia)

Visit of Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portugal (1993). (Parliament of Galicia)

The most effective formula to project the image of Galicia is by receiving political leaders from countries related to the region by linguistic or cultural bonds, completed by the visits of Galician official delegations to foreign countries. Among the most important visits paid to the Parliament throughout four decades it is worthy to highlight EU ambassadors and leaders and American (Portugal, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, or Cuba) authorities. The Parliament has also welcomed presidents of cultural organizations, delegations of non-governmental organizations and political alliance representatives. The last visitors were the Ambassador of Israel and the Ambassador of Uruguay in Spain.



Visit of the signatories of *Declaración de Barcelona* (1998). (Parliament of Galicia)



World March of Women (2000).  
(Parliament of Galicia)



Visit of Santiago Grisolla, president of the *Consello da Cultura de Valencia* (2002).



Ambassadors of Asian-Pacific countries visit the Parliament of Galicia, 7-7-2017.  
(Parliament of Galicia)



Visit of the Will Thys, President of the *Confederación Mundial del Trabajo* (1998). (Parliament of Galicia)



Visit of the head Ashaninka and a representative of *Fundación Paz y Solidaridad*. (Parliament of Galicia)



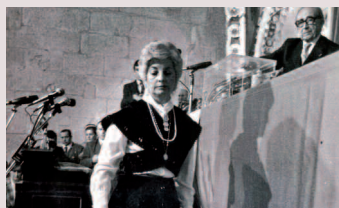
Visit of Eduardo Frei, ex president of Chile (2003). (Parliament of Galicia)



Galician students visit the Parliament.  
(Parliament of Galicia)



# Parliamentary Scenes



**1981.** The MP Enma González Bermello (UCD) takes office of her seat (1981)



**1982.** MPs of BN-PG are expelled. (Picture by Xan Carballa/Fundación A Nosa Terra)



**1986.** Camilo Nogueira between Martínez Randulfe and Martínez Aneiros, MPs of PSG-EG during the second legislature.



**1990.** MPs defend Galician fashion designers (80's) (Photography by Xulio Correa)



**1990.** González Laxe and Manuel Fraga during the debate of their investiture.



**2009.** Debate of investiture of Alberto Núñez Feijóo. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2009.** Greetings of Manuel Fraga and Emilio Pérez Touriño, 2009. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2009.** Victorino Núñez signs the Book of Honour of the Parliament. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2011.** Conversation between the presidents of Xunta, Fernández Albor, González Laxe, Pérez Touriño e Núñez Feijóo, on the occasion of the 30 Anniversary of the Parliament. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2012.** Protest of citizens before the Parliament of Galicia. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2016.** The leaders of the opposition, Fernández Leiceaga, Pontón Mondelo and Villares Naveira. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2016.** Ceremony of the Medals of the Parliament. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2017.** Defibrillator Training Drill.



**2020.** Inauguration ceremony of Alberto Núñez Feijóo. (Parliament of Galicia)



**2020.** President Núñez Feijóo with the spokespersons of PSDG, Caballero Míguez, Puy Fraga (PP) and Pontón Mondelo (BNG). (Parliament of Galicia)

# The Power of Speech





# The Power of Speech

40 Anniversary of the Parliament of Galicia | 1981-2021

