



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SUMMARY

Antigua and Barbuda is a bicameral parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy with two levels of government, central and local. Local government consists of a single local authority, the Barbuda Council, which governs the affairs of the Barbuda dependency. There is no constitutional provision for local government across Antigua; however the Barbuda Council is enshrined in the constitution. The Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development in Antigua is responsible for oversight of the local government department. The Barbuda Council reports to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs. Elections for the 11 Barbuda councillors are held every two years for half the council (five and six alternately) for a four-year term; following the 2017 election 45.5% (5/11) were women. In 2016, local government expenditure (Barbuda Council) accounted for 2% of total government expenditure. Barbuda Council is empowered to make by-laws, collect taxes and deliver goods and services, as well as to administer and regulate agriculture, forestry, public health, public utilities and roads for the island.

1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Antigua and Barbuda is a federal constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliamentary democracy.¹¹ The head of government is the prime minister, who advises the governor-general on the appointment of ministers. Parliament comprises a house of representatives and a senate. The 17 members of the house of representatives are elected by universal suffrage for a term of up to five years. The 17 members of the senate are appointed by the governor-general as follows: 11 on the advice of the prime minister, one of whom must be a resident of Barbuda; four on the advice of the leader of the opposition; one on the advice of the Barbuda Council; and one at the discretion of the governor-general. The number of women in Parliament following the 2018 election was not known, however following the 2014 national election, 11.1% (2/18) of the members of the house of representatives and 29.4% (5/17) of the senate were women.

2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 Constitutional provisions

There is no constitutional provision for local government; however, the Barbuda Council is enshrined in the constitution in Chapter 123.^{12a}

2.2 Main legislative texts

There is presently no local government legislation on Antigua; however, the Barbuda Local Government Act 1976^{12b} governs the Barbuda Council.

2.3 Proposed legislative changes

No known legislative changes proposed.

2.4 National urban policy

There is no national urban policy and there is no formal land use policy for the city of St John's.^{12c}

3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Local government within the state

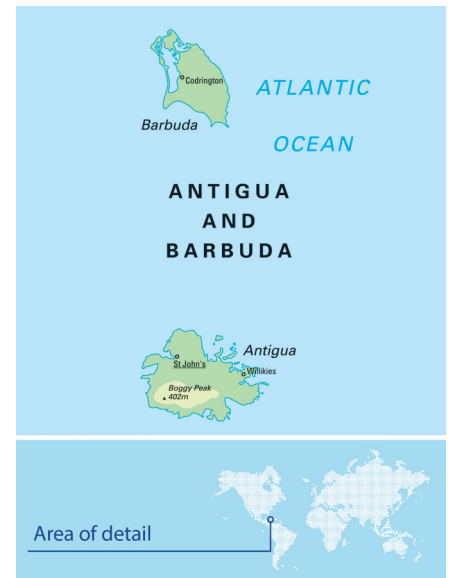
There are no district or parish councils in Antigua. On Barbuda there is one local government body, the Barbuda Council.

3.2 Ministerial oversight

On the island of Antigua the Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development has oversight of the local government department.^{13c} The ministry is providing technical support to the department in the form of a consultant dedicated to conducting a review of the existing local government system and making recommendations for its future development. The department has its own budget which mainly covers administrative costs, while community development projects are funded through alliances with the private sector and NGOs. The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs^{13d} has an oversight role for the Barbuda Council^{13e}.

3.3 Council types

The Barbuda Council was established in 1976 by the Barbuda Local Government Act and is an 11-member body consisting of nine directly elected and two ex-officio members (the member of parliament for Barbuda and a senate representative) who serve four-year terms. Elections are held every two years in March, with half the seats becoming vacant at alternate polls. The council is empowered to make by-laws to govern the affairs of the island. The Barbuda Council has five committees: Finance; Works and General Purposes; Health, Social Welfare and Disaster; Tourism, Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs; and Agriculture, Land, Forestry, Fisheries, Coastal/Marine Protection. The council also has a board of education and training.



KEY FACTS

POPULATION (2017 estimate):
94,731

AREA (UN 2006):
442 sq km

CAPITAL: St John's

CURRENCY:
East Caribbean dollar (XCD)

HEAD OF STATE:
HM Queen Elizabeth II

GOVERNOR-GENERAL:
Sir Rodney Williams

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:
Prime Minister Gaston Browne

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:
constitutional monarchy

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:
bicameral

STATE STRUCTURE: unitary

LANGUAGES: English (official), Antiguan Creole (recognised)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS:
last: March 2018, turnout: 90%; next: 2022

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2014):
representatives 11.1%; senators 29.4%

LOCAL ELECTIONS: Barbuda last: March 2017, turnout: 45%; next: 2019

WOMEN COUNCILLORS - BARBUDA:
45.5% (2017)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2016/17:
2.0%



Table 1.1a Distribution of councils and population

Parish/dependency	Districts	Population 2011 Census	Population 2017 estimate	% rural
St John's (city)	95	21,643	na	0.0
St John's (rural)	74	29,486	na	100.0
St George	22	7,976	na	100.0
St Peter	17	5,317	na	100.0
St Philip	19	3,322	na	100.0
St Paul	28	8,116	na	100.0
St Mary	20	7,331	na	100.0
Barbuda	5	1,625	na	100.0
TOTAL	280	84,836	94,731	74.3

Source: Government of Antigua and Barbuda, 2011 Census page 181^{1.3a} and CIA factbook^{1.3b}

4. ELECTIONS

4.1 Recent local elections

The last local elections were held for the Barbuda Council in January 2017^{1.4}. Turnout was 45.5%. The next election is scheduled in 2019. The previous election was held in March 2015 and the turnout was 82%.

4.2 Voting system

Elections are undertaken by single non-transferable vote and universal suffrage among the citizens of Barbuda over the age of 18.

4.3 Elected representatives

No information available.

4.4 Women's representation

In the last Barbuda Council election, four of the six elected councillors were female, bringing the total on the council to five out of 11, or 45.5%. The current council chair is female. See table 1.1b

5. SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

5.1 Legal requirement

No information available.

5.2 Implementation

No information available.

5.3 ICT use in citizen engagement

There is currently no e-government strategy.

6. ORGANISED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are no local government associations.

7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The local government department in Antigua operates as a regular government department within the Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development and not as a local government structure, since there is no legislation to support such a structure. The Barbuda Council reports to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs.

8. MONITORING SYSTEMS

In Barbuda, the council prepares annual estimates of revenue and expenditure which are submitted to the Minister of Finance for the approval of parliament.

9. FINANCE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

9.1 Local government expenditure

In 2017, local government expenditure is budgeted to be 2.0% of total government expenditure, up slightly from 1.9% in 2016 but down from 2.3 in 2015, and 2.6% in 2014. See table 1.2b.

9.2 Locally raised revenue

The local government department in Antigua has no authority to levy taxes. The Barbuda Council is empowered by the Barbuda Local Government Act 1976, Chapter 44, Section 19, sub-section xviii to collect taxes to deliver goods and services. The council proposes by-laws to implement all new taxes, which are tabled in parliament for approval.

9.3 Transfers

The Barbuda Council receives an annual grant to supplement its locally raised revenue and any deficit is covered by a transfer of funds from national government.

9.4 Loans

No information is available

9.5 Local authority staff

The national government of Antigua and Barbuda covers all administrative costs and salaries for the Antigua local government department, which in 2015/16 came to XC\$525,497. The Barbuda Council pays its secretary and all public officers from local tax revenue.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY

10.1 Overview of local government service delivery responsibility

District officers of the local government department in Antigua are assigned responsibilities for constituencies and are required to identify instances of need in each area and report to the relevant authorities for action. The local government department is also responsible for working with community groups to establish street names and signage and will be promoting cooperatives as a means of bringing people together to empower themselves economically. The Barbuda Council is empowered under the Barbuda Local Government Act to administer agriculture, forestry, public health, medical and sanitary facilities and services, as well as to administer and regulate the provision of electricity and water services and other public utilities for the island.

Table 1.1b Women councillors & chairs following the last 3 Barbuda Council elections

Election	2013		2015		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Councillors						
Female councillors	na	na	1	9.1	5	45.5
Male councillors	na	na	10	90.9	11	54.5
Total councillors	11	100.0	11	100.0	11	100.0
Chairpersons						
Female chairs	0	0	0	0	1	100
Male chairs	1	100.0	1	100.0	0	0
Total chair	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0

Source: Barbuda Council correspondence with CLGF



Table 1.2b Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure 2014–2017

	2014 in XC\$m actual	2015 in XC\$m actual	2016 in XC\$m approved	2017 in XC\$m budgeted
Total government expenditure	717.1	986.4	1,209.5	1,151.1
Total local government expenditure	18.6	23.1	23.1	23.3
Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure	2.6%	2.3%	1.9%	2.0%

Source: Compiled by CLGF from Government of Antigua and Barbuda budget statements¹⁹

10.2 ICT use in service delivery

In 2016, the Barbuda council and the Barbuda treasury were integrated onto the e-Government Platform^{110a} by the Ministry of Information, linking it directly with the Ministry of Finance.

10.3 The role of local government in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Environment Department within Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Health and the Environment is working to identify relevant energy efficient and renewable energy technologies and the development of a workforce strategy to mobilize local labour for implementation projects.^{110b}

REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

- 1.1. Government of Antigua and Barbuda website www.ab.gov.ag
- 1.2a. Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/constitutions/antigua/antigua-barbuda.html>

- 1.2b. The Barbuda Local Government Act 1976 <http://laws.gov.ag/acts/chapters/cap-44.pdf>
- 1.2c. Antigua and Barbuda: National Urban Profile 2012 <https://unhabitat.org/books/antigua-and-barbuda-national-urban-sector-profile>
- 1.3a. Antigua and Barbuda Census 2011 <http://caribbean.cepal.org/content/2011-population-and-housing-census-antigua-and-barbuda>
- 1.3b. Antigua and Barbuda profile 2018: www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/ac.html
- 1.3c. Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development www.ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=21
- 1.3d. Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs www.ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=17

- 1.3e. Barbuda Council www.barbudaful.net/our-community/politics/local-government.html
- 1.4. Antigua and Barbuda Election Commission www.abec.gov.ag/election-cycle/barbuda-council.php
- 1.5. No reference for this section
- 1.6. No reference for this section
- 1.7. No reference for this section
- 1.8. No reference for this section
- 1.9. Based on the figure of \$23.342,875 Barbuda council expenditure 2017 and XC\$769m national expenditure www.ab.gov.ag/pdf/budget/2017_Barbuda_Council.pdf 2017 National Budget Summary, page 69 www.ab.gov.ag/pdf/budget_speech_2016.pdf
- 1.10a. Ministry of Information extends e-Government Platform to Barbuda www.ab.gov.ag/media_page.php?page=100
- 1.10b. Workforce Development Strategy for Antigua and Barbuda's Priority Energy Sectors www.ctc-n.org/technical-assistance/projects/workforce-development-strategy-antigua-and-barbuda-s-priority-energy
- 1.11a. UN statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 1.11b. Commonwealth Local Government Knowledge Hub www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub
- 1.11c. UNDP HDR Antigua and Barbuda country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ATG>

Annex 1a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in Antigua and Barbuda

Services	Delivering authority		Remarks
	National government	Barbuda Council	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
Police	■		
Fire protection	■		
Civil protection	■		
Criminal justice	■		
Civil status register	■		
Statistical office	■		
Electoral register	■		
EDUCATION			
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)	■		
Primary	■		
Secondary	■		
Vocational and technical	■		
Higher education	■		
Adult education	■		
SOCIAL WELFARE			
Family welfare services	■		
Welfare homes	■		
Social security	■		
PUBLIC HEALTH			
Primary care	■	■	Barbuda Council has sole responsibility on the island, national government on Antigua
Hospitals	■		
Health protection	■	■	
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING			
Housing	■		
Town planning	■		
Regional planning	■		
TRANSPORT			
Roads	■	■	Barbuda Council has sole responsibility on the island, national government on Antigua
Transport	■		
Urban roads	■	■	
Urban rail	■		
Ports	■		
Airports	■		
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION			
Water and sanitation	■	■	Barbuda Council has sole responsibility on the island, national government on Antigua
Refuse collection and disposal	■		
Cemeteries and crematoria	■		
Slaughterhouses	■		
Environmental protection	■		
Consumer protection	■		
CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS			
Theatre and concerts	■		
Museums and libraries	■		
Parks and open spaces	■		
Sports and leisure	■		
Religious facilities	■		
UTILITIES			
Gas services	■		Barbuda Council has sole responsibility on the island, national government on Antigua
District heating	■		
Water supply	■		
Electricity	■	■	
ECONOMIC			
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	■	■	Barbuda Council has sole responsibility on the island, national government on Antigua
Economic promotion	■		
Trade and industry	■		
Tourism	■		

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service