


The local government system in

# St Kitts and Nevis



## Key facts

**POPULATION (Census 2001)<sup>1</sup>:** 45,841  
**AREA:** 261 sq km  
**CAPITAL:** Basseterre  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO GDP:-**  
**CURRENCY:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)  
**HEAD OF STATE:** HM Queen Elizabeth II  
**GOVERNOR-GENERAL:**  
 Sir Cuthbert Sebastian  
**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:**  
 Prime Minister Denzil Douglas  
**FORM OF GOVERNMENT:** constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy  
**PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:** unicameral  
**STATE STRUCTURE:** federal  
**LANGUAGES:** English (official).  
**NATIONAL ELECTIONS:** last: 2010; turnout: 81.2%; next: 2015  
**LOCAL ELECTIONS:** There is no elected local government in St Kitts and Nevis.

Table 1. Distribution of population (Census 2001)

Parish/constituency	Population (Census 2001)*
<b>ST KITTS</b>	
Christ Church Nichola Town	2,059
St Anne Sandy Point	3,140
St George/Basseterre	13,220
St John/Capesterre	3,181
St Mary Cayon	3,374
St Paul/Capesterre	2,460
St Peter Basseterre	3,472
St Thomas Middle Island	2,332
Trinity Palmetto Point	1,692
<b>NEVIS</b>	
St Paul Charlestown	1,820
St John Figtree	2,922
St George Gingerland	2,568
St Thomas Lowland	2,035
St James Windward	1,832
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,325**</b>

\*provisional \*\*final Source: Statistics Office<sup>1</sup>

## SUMMARY

St Kitts and Nevis is a federal constitutional monarchy with two governments, the central government and the Nevis Island Assembly, which is recognised in the constitution. There is no local government on either island.

### 1. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

St Kitts and Nevis is a federal constitutional monarchy and unicameral parliamentary democracy. The cabinet is appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the prime minister. Parliament, known as the National Assembly, comprises 11 members elected to represent single-member constituencies and three appointees – two chosen on the advice of the prime minister and one on the advice of the leader of the opposition. Members are elected for terms of up to five years. The Nevis Island Assembly is composed of a unicameral cabinet headed by an indirectly elected premier with three elected members from single-member constituencies and three members appointed by the governor-general; again two on the advice of the premier and one on the advice of the leader of the opposition.

### 2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 2.1 Constitutional provisions:

There is no general constitutional provision for local government; however, the Nevis Island Assembly is enshrined in the constitution.

#### 2.2 Main legislative texts:

There is no legislation for local government on either St Kitts or Nevis.

### 3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 3.1 Local government within the state:

There is no local government on St Kitts and Nevis. There are 14 parishes, but these are administrative structures of the federal government.

St Kitts is divided into nine parishes which serve as administrative units. Nevis has a single island authority which is a local government within the federation, and it also has five parishes which serve as administrative units.

### References and useful websites

1. Statistics Office, St Kitts and Nevis  
[www.cuopm.com](http://www.cuopm.com)  
 Census 2001  
[www.unodc.org/pdf/barbados/st\\_kitts\\_and\\_nevis\\_2002.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/barbados/st_kitts_and_nevis_2002.pdf)  
[www.caricomstats.org/Files/Databases/Population/KN.pdf](http://www.caricomstats.org/Files/Databases/Population/KN.pdf)
2. UN statistics  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2008/Table03.pdf>
3. IMF statistics [www.imf.org/external/data.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/data.htm)
4. National government portal [www.gov.kn](http://www.gov.kn)
5. Constitution of St Kitts and Nevis  
[www.nia.gov.kn/index.php/Constitution/View-category.html](http://www.nia.gov.kn/index.php/Constitution/View-category.html)
6. Nevis Island Assembly [www.nia.gov.kn](http://www.nia.gov.kn)
7. Nevis Island Administration
8. UNDP Human Development Report 2010  
[www.hdr.undp.org](http://www.hdr.undp.org)