

TEXAS VS BAVARIA

Texas and the German state of Bavaria share a number of characteristics. For example, similar to Texas’s status as the second-largest U.S. state by area and population, Bavaria has the second-largest population in Germany and is the single largest German state by area. Throughout most of its history, Bavaria’s state government has been dominated by a single political party, the Christian Social Union (CSU). Since the creation of the modern Federal Republic of Germany and the current state of Bavaria after World War II, the CSU has won all but two elections to the state legislative body, the Landtag. Texas has experienced its share of single-party dominance as well. Bavarians speak a unique

dialect of German that natives of Berlin or Frankfurt find difficult to understand, just as Texans are known for their unique accents and phraseology in American English. In addition, Bavaria is among the most religiously observant and socially conservative of the German states. This places Bavarians at odds with their fellow Germans on a regular basis and helps to generate a sense of Bavarian independence and strong state identity. Much like Austin is known for its left-leaning, Democratic Party politics that are often at odds with the state government, the Bavarian capital city of Munich is dominated by the left-of-center Social Democratic Party. The Texas-Bavaria comparison is apparently known in

Texas Government Departments versus State Bavarian Ministries

Texas Government Departments	
Department of Agriculture	Department of Insurance
Attorney General/Department of Justice	General Land Office
State Auditor	Department of Licensing and Regulation
Department of Banking	Department of Parks and Wildlife
Comptroller of Public Accounts	Department of Public Safety
Department of Criminal Justice	Public Utilities Commission
Texas Educational Agency	Railroad Commission
Commission on Environmental Quality	Department of Rural Affairs
Texas Ethics Commission	Secretary of State
Department of Family and Protective Services	Sunset Advisory Commission
Department of State Health Services	Department of Transportation
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Workforce Commission
Department of Housing and Community Affairs	

Bavarian State Ministries
Ministry of the Interior
Ministry of Education and Culture
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport, and Technology
Ministry of Environment and Health
Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Family, and Women
Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection
Ministry of Science, Research, and Art
Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry
Ministry of Federal and European Affairs

Sources: Compiled by authors from Bayerische Staatsregiergun, “Political Life: The Bavarian State Chancellery and the Bavarian State Ministries,” www.bayern.de/Contact-.596/index.htm (accessed September 5, 2014); Texas.gov (accessed September 5, 2014).