**7. The Legislative Branch**

**Summary:** Article l of the United States Constitution creates a **bicameral,** or two-house, legislature consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The current structure of the Congress was the result of the Connecticut (Great) Compromise, reached at the Constitutional Convention. The founding fathers based their compromise in part on the belief that each house would serve as a check on the power of the other house. The House of Representatives was to be based on the population in the states, representative of the people, with its members chosen by popular voice. The Senate was to represent the states, with each state having the same number of senators, chosen by the state legislatures.

Structure of Congress

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **House of Representatives** | **Senate** |
| **Membership** | 435 members **(**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**)** | 100 members (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) |
| **Term of Office** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Qualifications** | At least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_; must live in state where district is located | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must live in state |
| **Constituencies** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Prestige** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

Organization of Congress

* Two houses meet for terms of two years beginning on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; each term is divided into two one-year sessions

* The president may call special sessions in cases of national emergency
* Each house of Congress \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and determines its own rules

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ legislature responsible for writing the laws of the nation. Congress also serves other functions, such as overseeing the bureaucracy, consensus building, clarifying policy, legitimizing, and expressing diversity. It is made up of a House of Representatives with 435 members and a Senate of 100 members.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that House Representatives represent single-member districts with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Every ten years a census is taken by the federal government to count the population to determine the number of each state’s congressional districts. Each state must then \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Congressional Reapportionment is done by each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, the political party in control of the state legislature is responsible for redrawing Congressional District boundaries. As much as is legally possible, the legislature will gerrymander the district boundaries \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

This is true in every state except \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which uses an independent commission to redraw Congressional District boundaries. In some states, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the populations are so small that the entire state becomes a congressional district; all states are guaranteed at least one seat in the House.

Election to Congress

**Getting Elected to the House of Representatives**

The constitution guarantees each state at least one representative. Members are chosen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Some practices related to determining congressional representation are:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **–** distribution among the states based on the population of each of the states
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **–** the redistribution of Congressional seats \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ determines changes in population distribution among the states
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **–** the drawing by state legislatures of congressional districts for those states with more than one representative
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **–** drawing congressional districts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Getting Elected to the Senate**

The Constitution guarantees that “no state without its consent shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Members were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Since 1913, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allows for the direct election of senators by the people of the state.

**Incumbency Effect**

The **incumbency effect** is the tendency of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The effect tends to be stronger for members of the House of Representatives and weaker for the Senate. Advantages may include:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* voters are more likely to recognize the officeholder than the challenger.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* the officeholder may have brought government projects and money into the state or district.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*–* Officeholders may have helped constituents solve problems involving government and the bureaucracy.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* Members can use the “perks” of the office to communicate with constituents. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the privilege of sending official mail using the incumbent’s signature as postage, provides communication with constituents.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* Incumbents are more likely to gain “free” publicity during a campaign through the media.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* it is generally greater for incumbents.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* incumbents have already experienced the campaign process.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* Votes can evaluate their performance based on their record.

**Term Limits**

Although several states have passed legislation establishing term limits for members of Congress, the Supreme Court has ruled that neither the states nor Congress may impose term limits without a constitutional amendment. Therefore, today, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Leadership of Congress**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ controls the leadership positions of Congress.

**House of Representatives**

* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the presiding officer and most powerful member of the House. Major duties include\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Majority and minority leaders

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ serves as the major assistant to the speaker, helps plan the party’s legislative program, and directs floor debate.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the major spokesperson for the minority party and organizes opposition to the majority party.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by direction party members in voting, informing members of impending voting, keeping track of vote counts, and pressuring members to vote with the party.

**Senate**

* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, although not a Senate member, it’s the presiding officer of the Senate, according to the Constitution. The vice president may not debate and only votes to break a tie.
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a senior member of the majority party chosen to preside in the absence of the Senate president. This is a mostly ceremonial position lacking real power.
* Majority of the minority \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the most influential member of the Senate and often the majority party spokesperson.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ performs the same role as the House minority leader.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ serve the same role as whips in the House of Representatives.

The Committee System

Most of the work of Congress is accomplished through committee. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thus allowing for the study of legislation by specialists and helping speed up the passage of legislation.

**Leadership of Committees**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are members of the majority party in each house chosen by party caucus. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and decide whether the committee will hold public hearing and which witnesses to call. They manage floor debate of the bill when it is presented to the full House or Senate.

Traditionally chairpersons were chosen based on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, with the majority party member having the longest length of committee service chosen as chairperson. Today, reforms allow for the selection of chairpersons \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, most are long-standing members on the committee.

**Membership of Committees**

The percentage of each committee’s membership \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Members try to serve on committees where they can influence public policy relating to their district to state (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) or influence national public policy issues (an Iowa representative on the foreign relations committee).

**Types of Committees**

* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a permanent committee that deals with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(agriculture, energy and natural resources, veterans affairs).
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is a temporary committee appointed for a specific purpose. Most are formed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, such as the Senate Watergate Committee.
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is made up of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It may be a select committee (Iran-Contra Committee) or perform routine duties (Joint Committee on the Library of Congress)

* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is a temporary committee of members from both houses of Congress, created to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is a compromise committee.

**Caucuses**

**Caucuses** are informal groups formed by members of Congress who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Congressional Black Caucus, Women’s Caucus, Democratic or Republican Caucus).

**Congressional Staff and Support**

* Personal Staff work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Washington D.C., and their district offices in their home states.
* Committee Staff work for committees and subcommittees in Congress, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provide services to members of Congress (Library of Congress, Government Printing Office).

**Roles of Members of Congress**

Members of Congress have several roles.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* make public policy through the passage of legislation
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *–* represent constituents

-delegate- members vote based on the wishes of constituent, regardless of their own opinions

-**trustee-** after listening to constituents, members vote based on their own opinions

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– help constituents with problems
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– serve on committees
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– work to support their political party platform and get reelected

**Privileges of Members of Congress**

Members of Congress enjoy several privileges, including:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their district or home state
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_allows members of Congress \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while conducting congressional business
* Immunity from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for their speech or debate in Congress

**Powers of Congress**

Congress has legislative and non-legislative powers.

1. Legislative powers – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – powers specifically granted to Congress, mostly found in Article I, Section 8 in the Constitution
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – powers that may be reasonably suggested to carry out the expressed powers; found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*; allows for the expansion of Congress’ powers (expressed power to raise armies and navy implies the power to draft men into the military)

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* - powers denied by Congress by Article I, Section 9 and the Tenth Amendment

1. Non-legislative powers – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – selection of the president by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* upon the failure of the electoral college to achieve a majority vote

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – congress may propose amendments by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* or by calling a national convention to propose amendments if requested by two-thirds of the state legislatures

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or impeach, the president, vice president or any civil officer; case if tried in the Senate with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were both impeached by the House but not convicted by the Senate)
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – the Senate shares the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*; the Senate must approve appointments by majority vote and treaties by two-thirds vote

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – investigate matters falling within the range of its legislative authority; often involves the review of policies and programs of the executive branch

**The Lawmaking Process**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, may begin in either house, except revenue bills, which must begin in the House of Representatives.

The legislative process is, by design, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is to prevent Congress from acting hastily.

The Framers intended for the process to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The result has been that the final version of bills are often radically different from initial versions. Without compromise, there would be no legislative process.

As many as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the floor of Congress each year. Some are written by members of Congress, some by members of Congress’s staffers, others by special interest groups and their lawyers and then submitted by members of Congress.

Regardless of who writes a bill, a member of Congress MUST submit the bill; this is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The legislative process requires both houses of Congress to work cooperatively. \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. While the bills must be verbatim, the debate and voting process within the House and the Senate differ from one another. Because there are 435 members in the House, the extent of debate is more limited than in the Senate, which has fewer rules.

Unlike the Senate, the House has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which is responsible for determining how long a bill will be debated and whether to allow an open or closed rule for amending the bill. Open rules allow amendments to a bill, a closed rule allows no amendments to a bill.

While the House strictly controls voting and debate on bills, the Senate does not! There are no time restraints placed on Senators. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is their intent to delay a vote on the bill and to tie up the agenda of the Senate. The only way of stopping a filibuster is to vote for cloture, but this requires 60 senators to vote to stop the filibuster, obviously a difficult task.

The Senate has no closed rules for amending legislation. Amendments, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do not have to be germane to a bill. This allows individual senators an opportunity to add amendments, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Projects that are directed at bringing money or amenities to a Congressperson’s state or congressional district are called earmarks or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (bring home the bacon) and is one reason that incumbents have such a high reelection rate.

After debate, bills usually end up passing the House and Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A Conference Committee is then called where members of both houses of Congress meet and create a new bill that is the finalized and identical form that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Failure to reach a negotiated bill kills the bill; if the bill is passed in identical form in both houses, it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The President can then:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and make it a law,

(2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(literally “I forbid”) and send it back to Congress with an explanation on why he didn’t sign the bill. It can then be overridden with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the bill becomes law after ten days,

(4) If Congressional session ends before the ten day limit and the president does not sign the bill, the bill dies; this is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **House of Representatives** | **Senate** |
| * A bill is introduced, numbered, and assigned to a committee. * The bill may be assigned to a subcommittee for a further study. * The bill is returned to committee, where it is approved or rejected. * The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sets terms of debate for the bill. * The bill is debated by the House. * A vote is taken, where the bill is passed or defeated. Bills that pass the House are sent to the Senate. | * A bill is introduced, numbered, and assigned to a committee. * The bill may be assigned to a subcommittee for a further study. * The bill is returned to committee, where it is approved or rejected. * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! * The bill is debated by the Senate. * A vote is taken, where the bill is passed or defeated. Bills that pass the House are sent to the Senate. |

**Legislative Tactics**

Legislative tactics are the strategies and devices used by Congress and others in an attempt to block legislation or to get legislation passed.

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – May form voting blocs.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – Plays a major role in the passage of legislation; bills may die if committees fail to act upon them or reject them.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—*Filibuster is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in an attempt to stall actionon a bill. It occurs in the Senate only, and is possible because the Senate’s rules for debate are almost unrestricted. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the method by which the Senate limits a filibuster. It involves a petition to end debate and requires the vote of at least 60 Senators.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—An attempt to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***.**

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—An attempt by members to gain the support of other members in return for their support on the member’s legislation; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—Additions to legislation which generally have no connection to the legislation; generally legislation that would not pass on its own merit; when a bill has lots of riders it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—Additions or changes to legislation that deal specifically with the legislation.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—Trying to influence members of Congress to support or reject legislation.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—May affect the wording and therefore the final intent of the legislation.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—The rejection of a presidential or executive branch action by a vote of one or both houses of Congress, used mostly between 1932 and 1980 but declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1983 (*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*) stating that Congress cannot take any actions having the force of law unless the president agrees.

Influences on Congress

Various individuals and groups influence Congress members.

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—Members, especially those who hope to win reelection, often take into consideration the opinions of their constituents and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—More senior members often influence newer members; committee members who worked on legislation often influence other members; and staff often research issues and advise members.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—Each party’s platform takes a stand on major issues, and loyal members often adhere to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Members in the House are more likely to support the party position than are Senators.
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—Presidents often lobby members to support legislation through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* to gain support from voters to bring pressure on members.

* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*—often provide members with information on topics relating to their group’s interest or possible financial support in future campaigns.

**Rapid Review**

* Congress is bicameral in nature
* Members of the House of Representatives are chosen from districts within a state. The number of representatives per state is passed on state population.
* Members of the Senate are elected from the state. States are equally represented, with two senators from each state.
* Reelection to Congress is often a consequence of the incumbency effect. Several factors may contribute to the incumbency effect.
* There are no term limits in Congress.
* Leaders of the House of Representatives include the Speaker of the House, the floor leaders, and the whips. Leaders of the Senate (Vice President), the president pro tempore, the floor leaders and the whips.
* Most of the legislative work on Congress is accomplished through committees. Membership on committees is based on party strength. Types of committees include standing, joint, select, and conference committees.
* Personal staff, committee staff, and support agencies aid members of Congress and the committees
* Congressmen serve in many roles.
* Congress has both legislative and non-legislative powers. Legislative powers include expressed, implied, and denied powers. Non-legislative include electoral powers, amendment powers, impeachment powers, executive powers of the Senate, and oversight powers.
* Congress has a specific process for how a bill becomes a law.
* Legislative tactics are used in the process of passing, stopping, or slowing legislation.
* Constituents, other lawmakers, party influences, the president, lobbyists, and interest groups influence members of Congress.

**Key Terms**

Bicameral President pro tempore Rules Committee

Apportionment Seniority system Filibuster

Reapportionment Standing Committee Cloture

Congressional districting Select Committee Pork Barrel Legislation

Gerrymandering Joint Committee Logrolling

Incumbency effect Conference committee Riders

Casework Caucuses Amendments

Constituents Trustee Lobbying

Speaker of the House Franking privilege Legislative veto

Floor leaders oversight

Majority leader bills