

The Legislative Branch: Congress

Senate: the "upper house"	House of Representatives: the "lower house"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 members (every state has two Senators regardless of size) • Serve 6 year terms • Annual salary: \$174,000; Senate leaders \$193,400 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 435 members (determined by a census guaranteed at least one) • Serve 2 year terms • Annual Salary: \$174,000; Speaker of the House \$223,500; leaders \$ 193,400
<p>★ <u>Constitutional Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 30 years old • citizen of the United States for at least nine years • must be resident of state they seek to represent • Senators originally chosen by the state legislatures- became directly elected by the people in 1913 (17th amendment) • Midterm vacancy- 45 states permit Governor of state to fill seat by appointment (some states provide for a special election). 	<p>★ <u>Constitutional Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 25 years old • citizen of the United States for at least seven years • must be resident of state they seek to represent • Elected by the people • Midterm vacancy- 45 states permit Governor of state to fill seat by an appointment (some states provide for a special election).
<p>★ <u>Powers of the Senate:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consenting to treaties as a precondition to their ratification • consenting or confirmation of appointments of Cabinet secretaries, federal judges, other federal executive officials, and military officers • conducts impeachment trials of federal officials. 	<p>★ <u>Powers of the House of Representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiate revenue bills (taxes) • Impeach officials • elect the president when there is a tie in the Electoral College
<p>★ <u>Leadership:</u></p> <p>President of the Senate President Pro Tempore Majority Leader and Minority Leader Assistant Majority Leader (Whip) Assistant Minority Leader (Whip)</p>	<p>★ <u>Leadership:</u></p> <p>Speaker of the House Majority Leader Minority Leader Majority Whip Minority Whip</p>
<p>★ <u>Committees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 committees, 68 subcommittees, and 4 joint committees • <u>Placement:</u> Each party honors the preferences of individual senators, giving priority on the basis of seniority. Each party is allocated seats on committees in proportion to its overall strength. • Standing committees generally have legislative jurisdiction. Subcommittees handle specific areas of the committee's work. Select and joint committees generally handle oversight or housekeeping responsibilities. 	<p>★ <u>Committees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 standing committees, and subcommittees • <u>Placement:</u> Each party honors the preferences of individual Representatives, giving priority on the basis of seniority. Each party is allocated seats on committees in proportion to its overall strength. • <u>Committee of the Whole:</u> All members of the House consider and amend bills, includes non-voting members. • Standing committees oversee departments and agencies of the executive branch and have power to hold hearings and subpoena witnesses/evidence.