

## Congress and the Constitution

- Connecticut Compromise
- House System
  - Bicameral – two houses
  - Unicameral – one house

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## Differences between Houses

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Senate<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ 2 Senators from every state<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100 Total</li></ul></li><li>■ 6 year terms</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ House of Representatives<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ State representation based on population.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 435 Total</li></ul></li><li>■ 2 year terms</li></ul></li></ul> |
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## Powers of Congress (Article 1, Section 8)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Senate<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Advise and Consent<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ratify treaties</li><li>• Approves Supreme Court nominees</li><li>• Approve Ambassadors</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ House<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ All bills raising revenue (taxes) must start in the House</li><li>■ All spending bills originate in the House</li></ul></li></ul> |
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## Eligibility

- House
  - U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
  - 25 years of age
  - Resident of the state elected from
- Senate
  - U.S. citizen for at least 9 years
  - 30 years of age
  - Resident of the state elected from

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## Congressional Districts

- History
- Number of Representatives
  - Based on census numbers every 10 years
- Drawing District Lines (reapportionment)
  - Redistricting and Race
    - Cannot redraw lines to discriminate against one race

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## Congressional Districts, continued

- Drawing District Lines (reapportionment)
  - Redistricting and Parties
    - **Gerrymandering** – redrawing district lines to favor one party over the other
      - **Packing** - creating a district in which the opposition party has total control.
      - **Cracking** – Breaking opposition party votes up into different districts.

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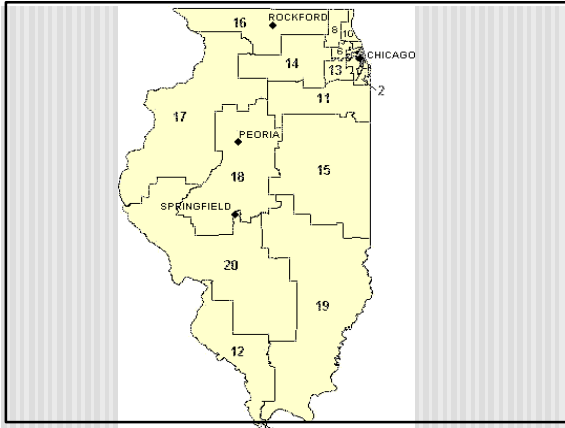
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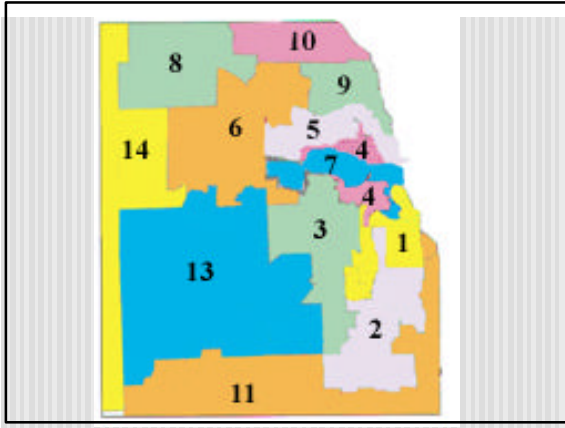
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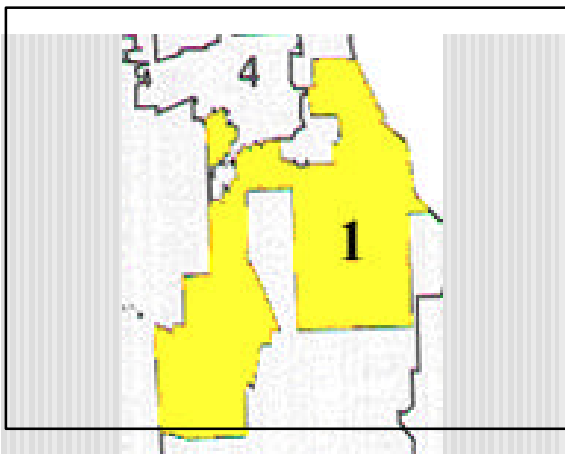
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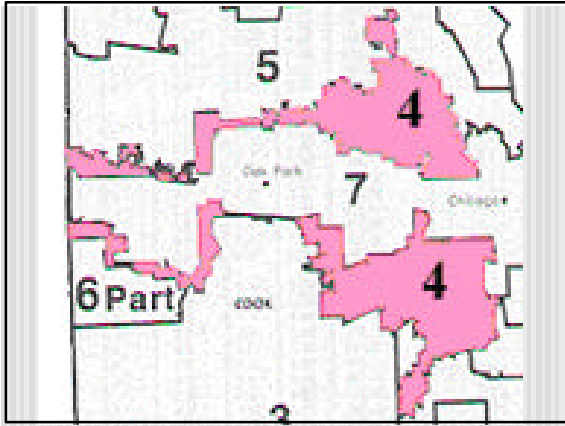
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### Senate

- Every state 2 senators
- Elected at large
- 6 year terms
- Elected by state legislatures prior to 1913

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### House Leadership

- Speaker of the House – most important individual
- Majority Leader
- Minority Leader

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## Senate Leadership

- President – presiding officer
  - (Vice President of United States)
- President Pro Tempore
- Majority Leader – most important person
- Minority Leader
- Majority/Minority Whip

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## Committee System

- Types of committees
  - Standing Committees
    - Permanent
  - Select Committees
    - Temporary special issue committees
  - Joint Committees
    - Permanent operational committees
  - Conference Committees
    - Temporary committees to resolve difference in house and senate bills

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## How a Bill Becomes Law

- Introduction of Legislation
- Assignment to Committee
- Hearings
- Reporting a Bill

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## How a Bill Becomes Law (continued)

- Scheduling Debate
  - House Calendars
    - Consent Calendar/Private Calendar
    - Union (money bills)/House(other public bills) calendars
      - Open Rule – Allow amendments to be introduced
      - Restricted Rule – Only certain amendments
      - Closed Rule – No amendments

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## How a Bill Becomes Law (continued)

- Scheduling Debate
  - Senate Calendar
    - Unanimous consent
    - Open debate

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## How a Bill Becomes Law (continued)

- Debates and Amendments
  - House
    - Time divided equally between both sides
    - Amendments must be relevant to bill

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## How a Bill Becomes Law (continued)

- Debates and Amendments
  - Senate
    - Amendments
    - **Riders** – amendments that have nothing to do with the legislation
    - **Filibuster** - Where a senator makes a long speech to prevent a bill from coming up for vote.
    - **Cloture Rule** – When 3/5<sup>th</sup> or 60 senators vote to end a filibuster.

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## How a Bill Becomes Law (continued)

- The Vote
  - House
    - **Voice Vote** – member yells “yes” or “no”
    - **Division Vote** – members stand and are counted
    - **Teller Vote** – vote by signed ballot
    - **Roll Call Vote** – member’s name is called
  - Senate
    - Voice Vote
    - Roll Call Vote

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## How a Bill Becomes Law (continued)

- In Conference
  - Iron out differences between House version & Senate version of the bill
- The President
  - Sign the bill
  - Ignore the bill
  - Veto the bill
    - Can be overturned by 2/3 vote in each house
  - **Pocket Veto** - If the president does not sign a bill within 10 days of his receiving it and Congress has adjourned within that time, the bill does not become law

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## Make-up of Congress

- Unrepresentative of the US
  - Primarily upper-class white males
- Demographics
  - Senate
    - Women – 9
    - Native American – 1
  - House
    - Women – 58
    - African Americans – 39
    - Hispanic - 19

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## Congressional Elections – Types of

- Party-Centered Campaigns
  - Campaign is run and organized by the party and all candidates follow the party platform
- Candidate Centered Campaigns
  - Candidates run their own campaign
  - Campaigns often run counter to national platform

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## Why Incumbents Get Reelected

- Competitors
  - Few strong challengers
- Money
  - Most donations go to incumbents
- Case-work
  - Can do special favors for constituents
- Political Resources
  - Free media, travel, etc.
- Franking Privileges
  - Free mailing privileges

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## Styles of Representation

- Delegates
  - Vote how their constituents want them to vote
- Trustees
  - Vote for what is best for the country, even if it is counter to what the constituents want.
- Politicos
  - Combines delegate and trustee styles
    - When issue is important to constituents vote how they want, otherwise vote as trustee.

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