

Intro to Poli. Sci. – 9/29/15

- * Objective: SWBAT describe the basics of the Legislative Branch.
- * Agenda:
 - * Leg. Branch Notes
 - * Class Amendment Work time



The Legislative Branch

“Makin’ Law Since 1789”

A Bicameral Congress

Three Reasons

1. **Historical – the British Parliament had 2 houses since the 1300's**
2. **Practical – compromise between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan**
3. **Theoretical – one house is a check on the other one's power.**

Terms

- * Last 2 years
- * Used to start on March 4
 - * 20th Amendment changed that to the 3rd day of January at noon.
- * 114th Congress meeting currently - began January 3, 2015

Sessions

- * One year of the term
- * 2 sessions per term
- * Can adjourn only with the consent of both houses
- * President has power to prorogue (end)
- * Special Session can be called by President in an emergency. (doesn't really happen anymore now that Congress meets year round)

Interactive Notetaking

- * Take one minute to highlight, underline, or circle important words/information from the previous notes.
- * You can also use this time to fill out the question/main idea portion of your notes.

The United States House of Representatives

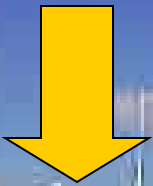


The Capitol Complex



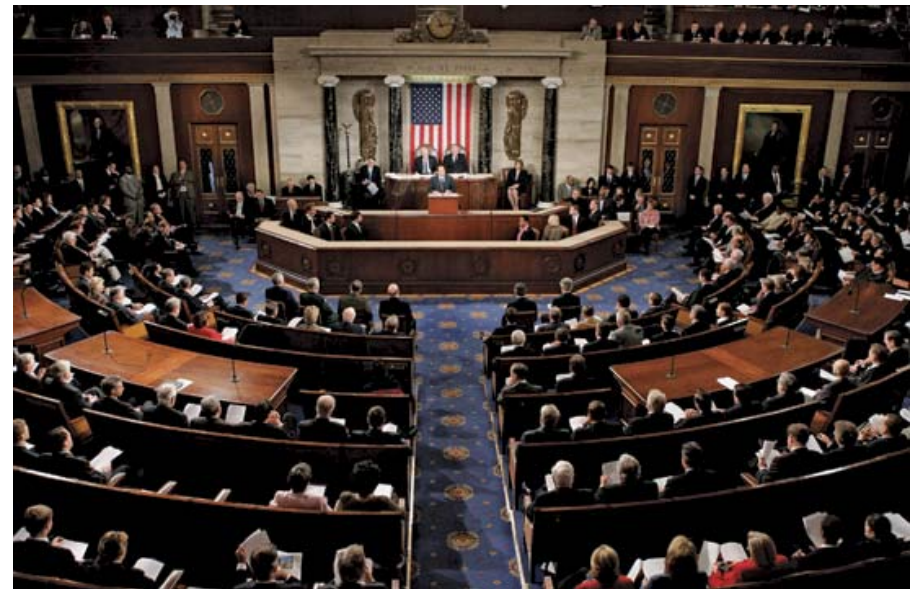
The House of Representatives

House of Reps.



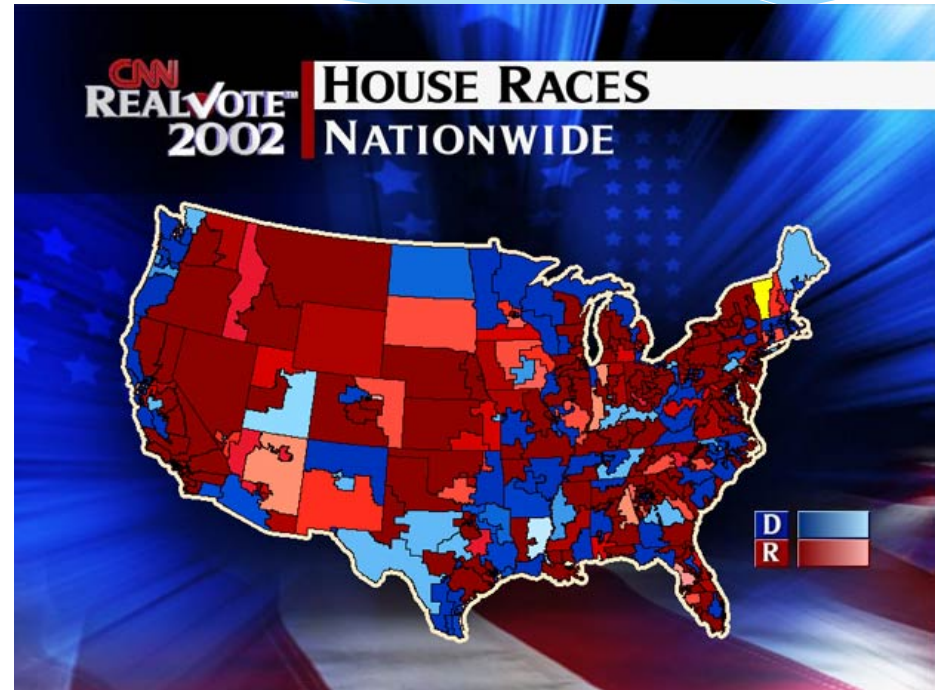
The House of Representatives

- * **Size:** 435 people (this is not set by the Constitution, Congress sets it)
- * Each state is guaranteed at least one seat in the House, no matter its population.
- * D.C., Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa elect a delegate, and Puerto Rico chooses a resident commissioner. These officials are not full members of the House.
- * **Term Length:** two years (short term = must always be paying attention to those back home)
 - * Closer to voters
 - * “Lower House”
- * **Term Limits:** none



How Do We Elect Our Representatives?

- * Think of Congressional elections as 435 separate elections.
- * Each representative represents one district.
- * We have *single-member districts*, which means that the voters in each district elect one of the state's representatives from that district.

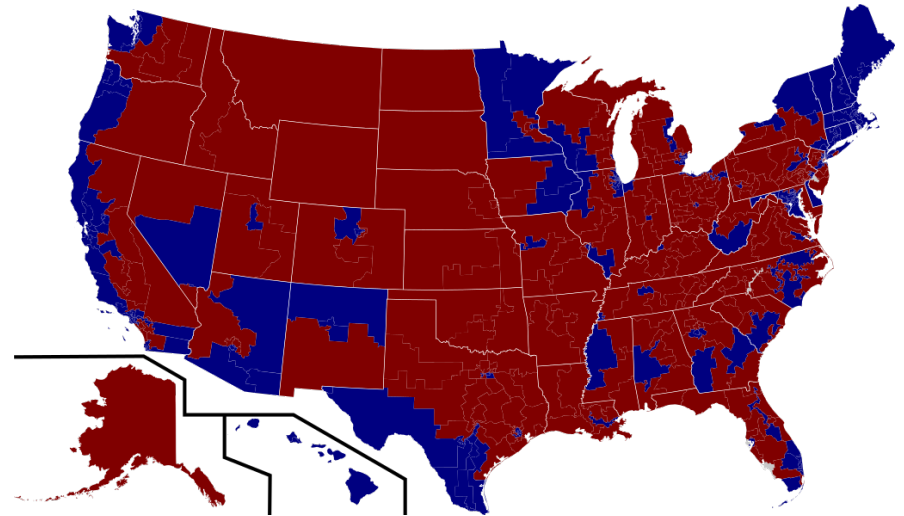


Interactive Notetaking

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Congressional Elections

- * All States require that Congressional elections are held on the same day.
- * Since 1872 this has been the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

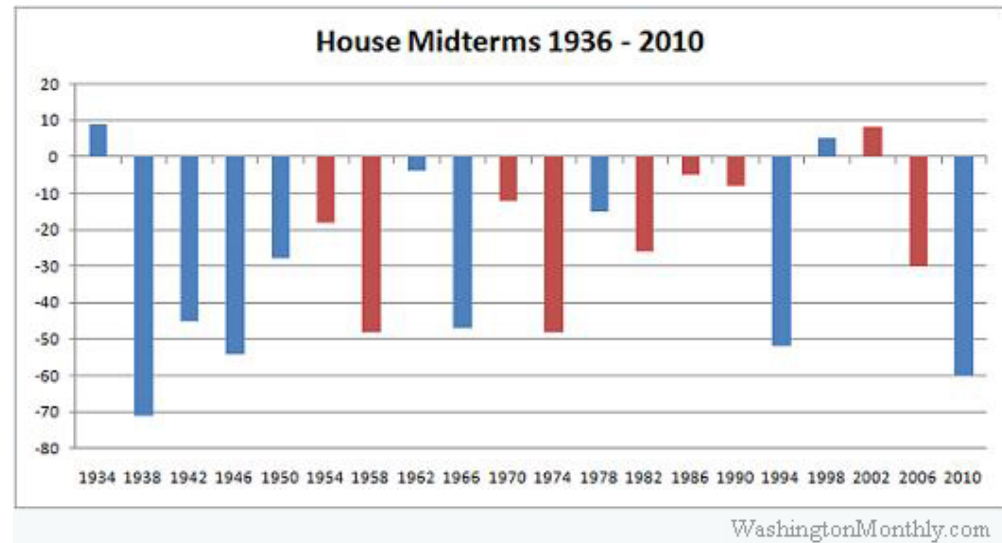


Current Make-up of the House:

- 247 Republicans
- 188 Democrats

Off Year Elections

- * *Off-year elections* are Congressional elections that occur in non-Presidential years (years when a President is not being elected).
- * Usually, the party in power (the President's party) loses seats.

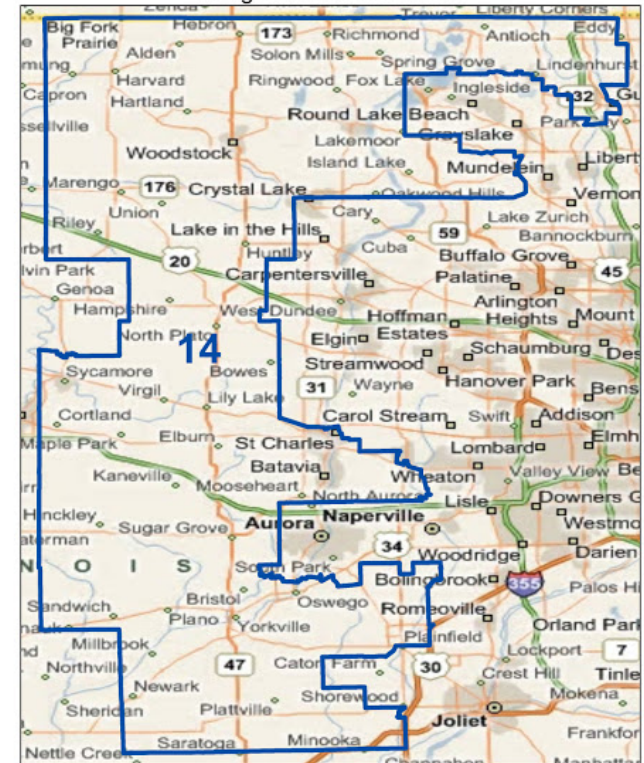


Who Are We Represented By?

- * There are 18 districts in Illinois.
- * OHS is in Illinois' 14th Congressional District.
- * This district is represented by Randy Hultgren (R)

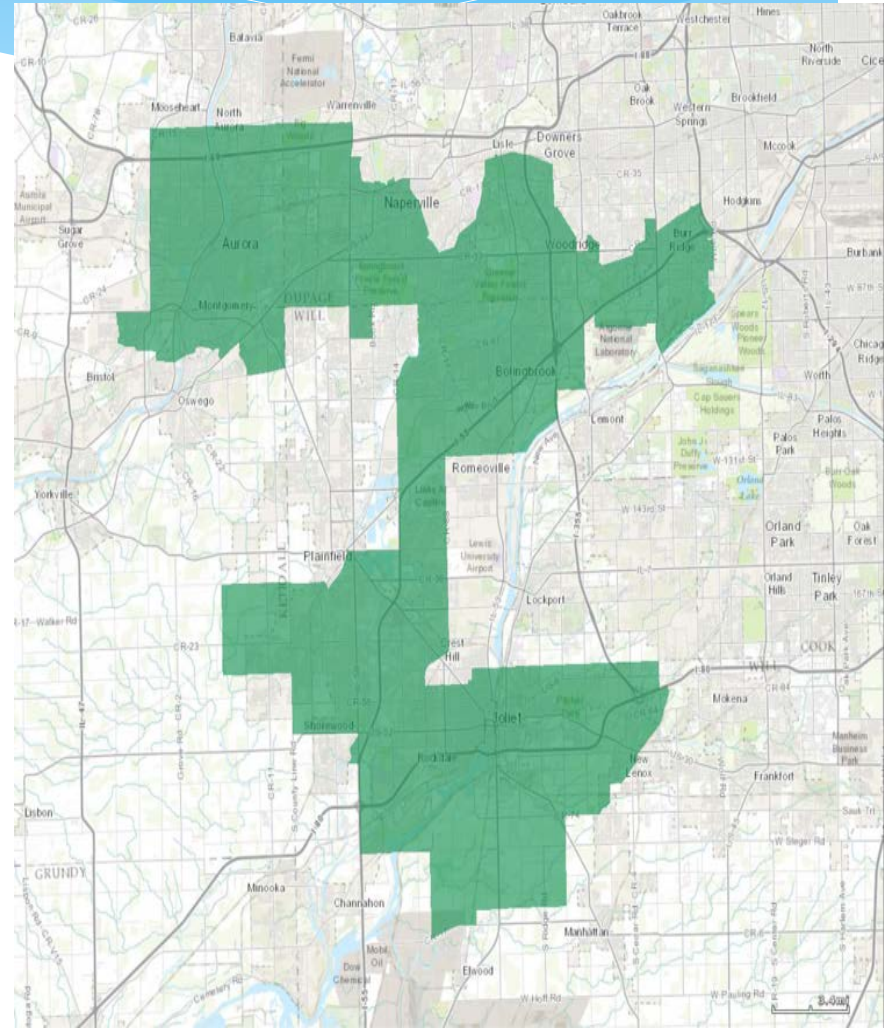


Public Act 97-0014
Congressional District 14



Who Are We Represented By?

- * Some of you may live in the 11th District.
- * This district is represented by Bill Foster (D).



Interactive Notetaking

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Intro to Poli. Sci. – 9/30/15

- * Objective: SWBAT describe the basics of the Legislative Branch.
- * Agenda:
 - * Bell Ringer
 - * Finish Class Amendments (if needed)
 - * Leg. Branch Notes

9/30/15 Bell Ringer

- * We took almost a full page of notes yesterday.
- * Go back to that page and summarize what you learned yesterday at the bottom.
- * This summary should be specific and 2-3 sentences.



Part Two: Dividing up Districts

Dividing up Congress

- * Draw a square on your paper.
- * Now, divide that square into 5 sections.
- * Look at your neighbor's square, did they divide the square in the same manner?
 - * Probably not.

How Do We Decide How To Divide Up Those 435 Seats?

- * We use a system called *apportionment*, which divides the seats amongst the states based on population.
- * Seats must be *reapportioned* every ten years, following the decennial census.
- * http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUCnb5_HZco

The Reapportionment Act of 1929

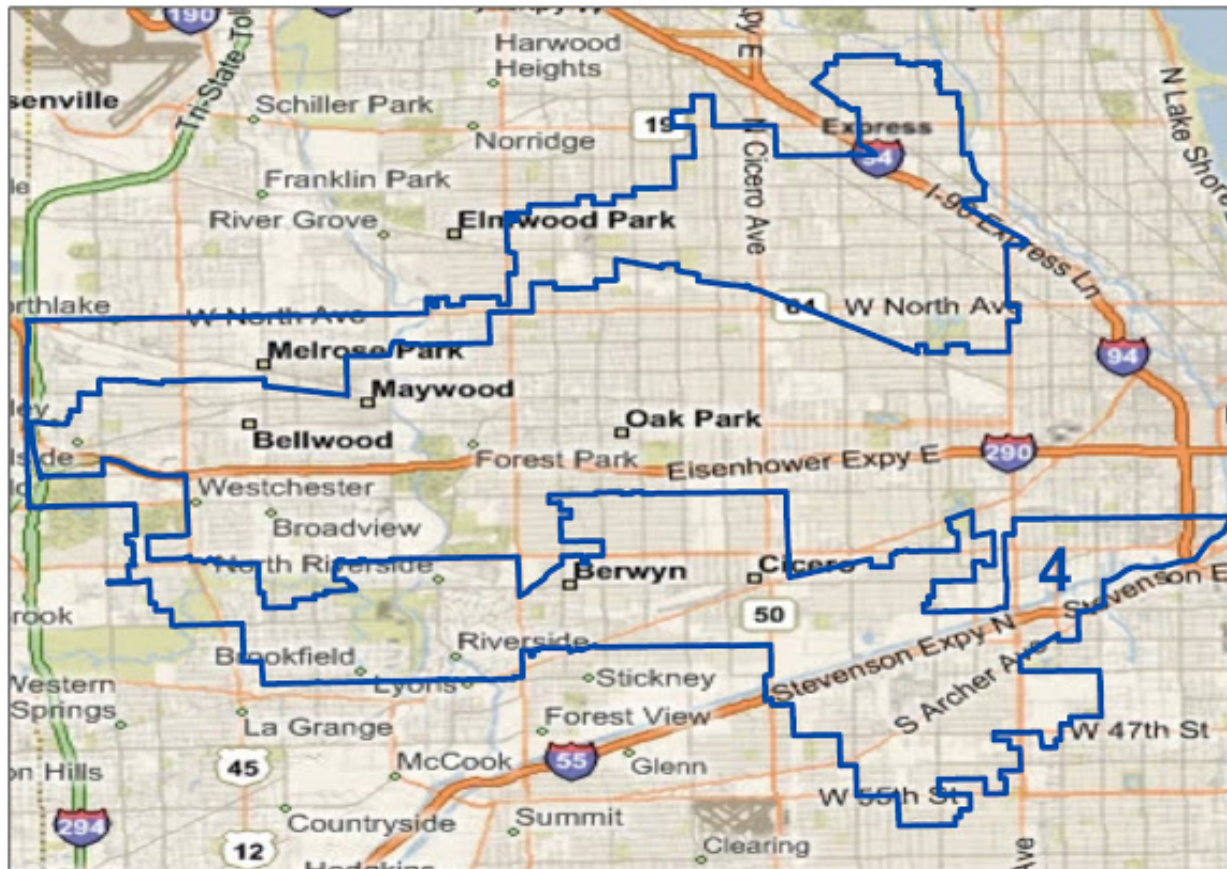
- * The “permanent” size of the House is 435 members (Congress may change this if they want to).
- * The Census Bureau decides how many seats each State should have.
- * Once the Bureau makes their decisions, they send the plan to Congress for approval.
- * This system has worked for eight reapportionments thus far. It allows Congress to fulfill its Constitutional duty, while at the same time allows the Census Bureau to do the work (and take the “heat”).

How Are Districts Drawn?

- * State legislatures are responsible for drawing boundaries.
- * Each district should have roughly the same number of people in it.
- * They should be “compact and contiguous.”

Roughly 650,000 People, Compact, and Contiguous, eh?

Public Act 97-0014
Congressional District 4



Interactive Notetaking

- * Take one minute to highlight, underline, or circle important words/information from the previous notes.
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Gerrymandering



- * *Gerrymandering* is drawing districts to benefit the political party that controls the State's legislature.
- * There are two ways to do this:
 1. concentrate opposition voters in a few districts, leaving the others open ("packing")
 2. spread the opposition as thin as possible, limiting opportunity to win ("cracking")
- * The goal is to create "safe districts," which are districts almost certain to be won by the party in control.
- * Gerrymandering based solely on race is illegal.

Gerrymandering Explained

- * <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mky11UJb9AY>
- * <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=659Owqa-XCE>
- * <http://www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/politics/2011/11/17/gerrymandering-matter.cnn.html>
- * <http://thedailyshow.cc.com/videos/oadjfq/american-horrible-story---gerrymandering>

Intro to Poli. Sci. – 10/1/15

- * Objective: SWBAT describe the basics of the Legislative Branch.
- * Agenda:
 - * Gerrymandering Video
 - * Gerrymandering Activity
 - * Leg. Branch Notes

So, You Want to be a Representative?



UNITED STATES
HOUSE of
REPRESENTATIVES

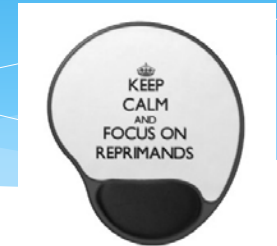
* Formal Qualifications

- * 25 years old
- * citizen of the U.S. for at least seven years
- * must be an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected
- * tradition states that one must be a resident of the district they represent

* Informal Qualifications

- * Deal with vote-getting ability
 - * party identification
 - * name familiarity
 - * gender
 - * ethnic characteristics
 - * political experience
- * Having the “right” combination is one of the keys to winning an election!

Bad Boys, Bad Boys, What'cha Gonna Do When They Come For You?



* You Don't Have to Go Home...

- * In 1900, the House refused to seat Brigham H. Roberts of Utah because he was a polygamist.
- * Three members were expelled in 1861 for their "support of rebellion."
- * In 1980, Michael Myers (no, not the killer from *Halloween* or the actor from *SNL*) was expelled for corruption.
- * James Traficant was ejected in 2002 for bribery, fraud, and tax evasions.
- * Other members have resigned to avoid almost certain expulsion.

* Sometimes, the House issues "reprimands" instead of expulsion.

- * Barney Frank was reprimanded in 1990 for his relationship with a male prostitute.
- * Joe Wilson was reprimanded in 2009 for yelling, "You lie!" at President Obama during a Joint Session of Congress.

Part 3: The Senate

The Senate



THE UNITED STATES SENATE, 1850

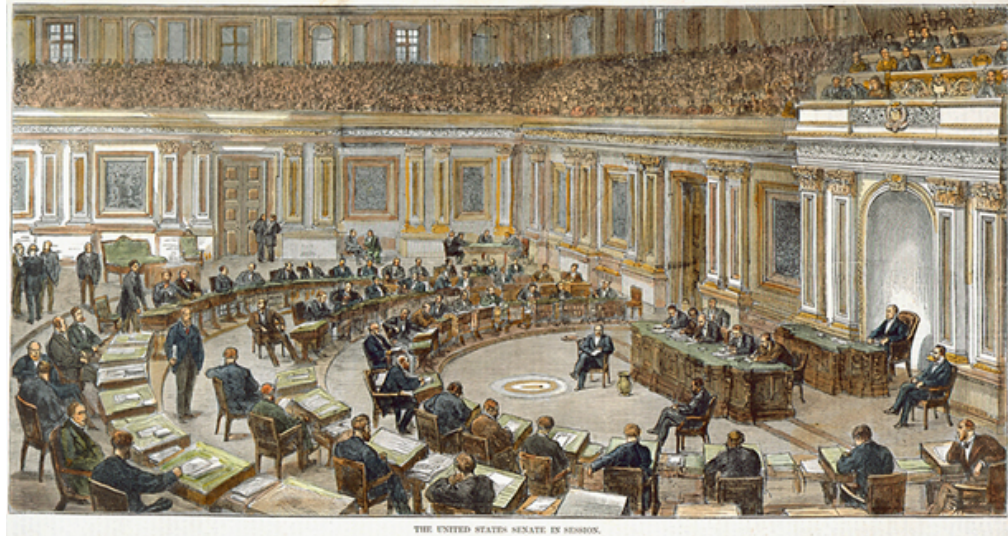


The Senate



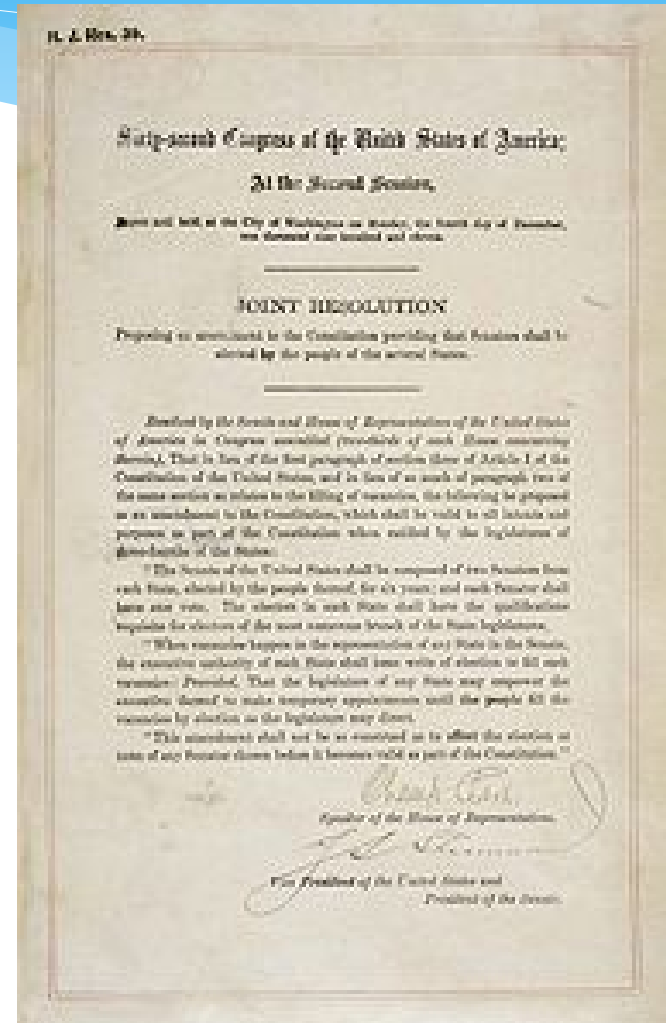
The Senate

- * The Senate is known as Congress' "Upper House."
- * Size: 100 members (two from each State)
- * Members of the Senate represent their entire State, not any given district.



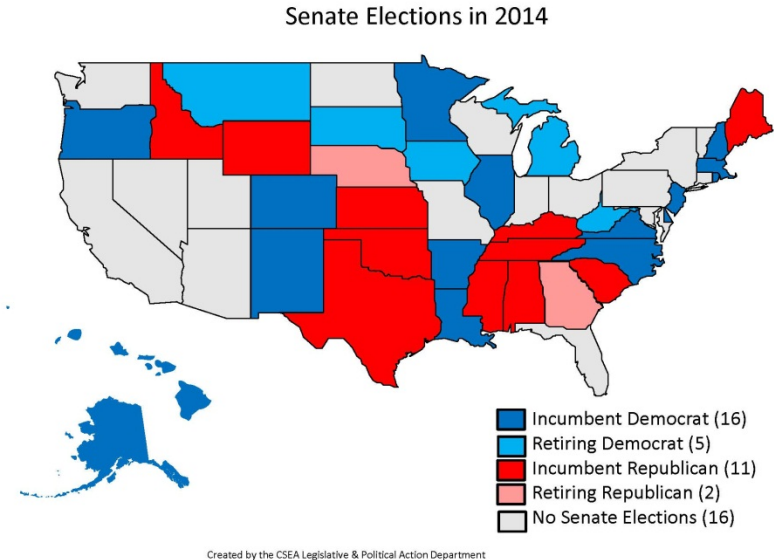
How Did/Do We Elect Senators?

- * Originally Senators were chosen by State legislatures.
- * The **17th Amendment** (1913) changed this. Now Senators are chosen by voters in their State during regular November elections.



How Long Does a Senator Serve For?

- * **Term Length: six years**
- * **Term Limits: none** (Robert Byrd was in the Senate from 1958 until his death in 2010!)
- * **Senator's terms are staggered.**
 - * Only a third are up for election at a time.
 - * This means that the Senate is a *continuous body*. This is because all of its seats are never up for election at the same time.
 - * This was done intentionally so that Senators did not have to worry as much about the pressures of having to run again immediately after being elected.



Current Make-up of the Senate:

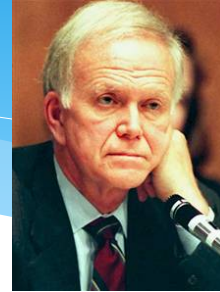
- 54 Republicans
- 44 Democrats
- 2 Independents (caucus with Dems)

Qualifications for Senators

- * **Formal Qualifications**
 - * must be at least 30 years old
 - * must have been a citizen of the US for at least nine years
 - * must be an inhabitant of the State
- * **Informal Qualifications** are the same as House of Representatives.



Not Everyone Plays Nice...



- * The Senate can expel members with a 2/3 majority vote.
 - * In 1797 William Blount was expelled for trying to get Native American tribes to go on attack in Spanish Florida and Louisiana.
 - * 14 Senators were ousted in 1861 and 1862 for supporting the Confederacy and secession.
- * Sometimes Senators resign before they are expelled.
 - * Bob Packwood resigned in 1995 after years of fighting charges of sexual harassment and other personal misconduct.
 - * David Durenberger did not run for reelection in 1994 after the Senate Ethics Committee found him guilty of numerous counts of financial misconduct.

Part 4:
Roles and Benefits of a
Congressperson

The Job of a Congressperson

1. **Representative**
 - * See next slide
2. **Legislator**
 - * Helps make laws
3. **Committee Member**
 - * See slide coming up
4. **Servant**
 - * See slide coming up
5. **Politician**
 - * See definition of “Politico” on next slide

Intro to Poli. Sci. – 10/5/15

- * Objective: SWBAT describe the Legislative Branch.
- * Agenda:
 - * Bell Ringer – Summary
 - * Leg. Branch Notes
 - * Continue Mr. Smith movie

10/5/15 Bell Ringer

- * We took almost a two pages of notes Thursday.
- * Go back to that page and summarize what you learned yesterday at the bottom.
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Roles of Representatives: How are people represented?

1. Trustees – Cast their votes based on conscience and independent judgment
2. Delegates – Believe they should vote the way they think “the folks back home” would want them to
3. Partisans – Vote in line with the party platform
4. Politicos – Try to balance all 3 of the above approaches

Committee Members



- * Every member of Congress is a member of at least one committee.
 - * Committees are where the work of Congress gets done
 - * Members want to be on a committee that represents the interests of their constituents.
- * Screen proposals before they go to the floor for consideration by all members
- * Oversight function – checks to see if various agencies of the executive branch are following laws and working effectively

Servants of Constituents



To do favors for people back home

- * Passport applications
- * Free sightseeing tours
- * Secure a government contract
- * Appointment to a military academy
- * Really without limit and members know they must respond or face not being re-elected.

COMPENSATION



*** Congress decides the amount they get paid**

*** 27th Amendment – Congress can't give themselves a raise during their current term.**

*** \$174,000 per year currently**

Compensation (cont.)

Position	Salary
Vice President	\$230,700
Delegates to the House of Representatives	\$174,000
Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico	\$174,000
President pro tempore of the Senate	\$193,400
Majority leader and minority leader of the Senate	\$193,400
Majority leader and minority leader of the House of Representatives	\$193,400
Speaker of the House of Representatives	\$223,500

Fringe Benefits/Privileges



- * Special tax deductions
- * Travel allowances
- * Inexpensive health care and life insurance
- * Generous retirement plan
- * Franking privilege (free printing and mailing)
- * Free parking at Capitol and airports in DC
- * Access to fine restaurants, workout gyms, swimming pools, exercise rooms and saunas
- * No arrest during attendance and going to and from sessions of Congress
- * Protection of speech during debate

POWERS OF CONGRESS

EXPRESSED POWERS OF CONGRESS

- These are Congressional powers that are specifically stated in the Constitution.
 - Article 1, Section 8
 - See Expressed Powers Activity
- Expressed powers are also known as delegated/enumerated powers.

IMPLIED POWERS

- These are Congressional powers not stated specifically in the Constitution but suggested by the Constitution's "Necessary and Proper Clause"
- This clause is also called the "Elastic Clause"
- McCulloch v. Maryland
 - Established the concept of "implied powers"

EXAMPLES OF IMPLIED POWERS

The expressed power
to borrow money

implies the power
to establish the Federal Reserve
System of banks

The expressed power
to lay and collect taxes

implies the power

- to punish tax evaders
- to regulate (license) the sale of some commodities (such as alcohol) and outlaw the use of others (such as narcotics)
- to require States to meet certain conditions to qualify for federal funding

The expressed power
to raise armies and a navy

implies the power
to draft Americans into the military

The expressed power
to regulate commerce

implies the power

- to establish a minimum wage
- to ban discrimination in workplaces and public facilities
- to pass laws protecting the disabled
- to regulate banking

The expressed power
to establish naturalization law

implies the power
to regulate and limit immigration

The expressed power
to establish post offices

implies the power

- to prohibit mail fraud and obstruction of the mails
- to bar the shipping of certain items through the mails

DEBATE OVER IMPLIED POWERS

◉ Strict Constructionists

- Thought/Think that Congress should only exercise those implied powers that are absolutely necessary to carry out the expressed ones
- Believe in limited federal power
- Anti-Federalists

◉ Liberal Constructionists

- Thought/Think there should be a broad interpretation or construction of the Constitution
- Believe in stronger national government
- Federalists

NON-LEGISLATIVE POWERS

- These are powers that enable the government to operate more effectively and help Congress serve as a check on the other branches of government.
 - Investigate other branches
 - Propose amendments to the Constitution
 - Impeachment Process
 - Electoral College role (if no clear winner)

IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

- Impeach = to accuse an officeholder of misconduct.
 - If found guilty, they are removed from office.
- Process:
 - House of Reps draws up charges
 - If a majority votes in favor, then official is impeached.
 - Senate holds the trial
 - VP acts as judge for lower level officials
 - Chief Justice of SC acts as judge if Pres. is impeached
 - 2/3 of Senate must vote to convict
 - Two presidents - Bill Clinton and Andrew Johnson
 - Neither were removed from office

SPECIAL POWERS - THOR

- ◉ Starts all bills for raising revenue (taxes)
- ◉ House has sole power of impeaching officials
- ◉ House chooses President if no candidate gets enough electoral votes

SPECIAL POWERS - SENATE

- All trials of impeachment held in Senate
- Chooses VP if not enough electoral votes
- All treaties or written agreements must be approved by 2/3 vote
- Approve Presidential appointments
- Filibuster: recognized Senator holds the floor as long as they speak and don't let another Senator interrupt (except for Qs)
 - Cloture: Ends a filibuster and requires 3/5's to pass (60 votes)