

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

1. A bill's sponsor proposes a bill. The bill is numbered, starting at HR1 or S1.
2. The bill or info surrounding it may be released to the public.
3. The Senate majority leader / House Rules committee assigns bills to the correct committee for review, who may choose to shoot it down (unless Congress votes to override this decision).
4. The committee deliberates or passes it to a lower committee. During this phase, three phases occur: hearings, markup and reporting. Sometimes the committee may order the bill and call for an analysis. During this time the bill may change dramatically depending on what the committee decides. Reporting is when the bill is released into Congress for voting and debate. "Shooting down" a bill is often called pigeonholing it which is fucking hilarious
5. The bill is debated upon, and riders take notice and add their own additions, which are additions that don't relate to the bill. People in the past have been forced to vote against their own bill as a result of a tack on that wasn't supposed to be there. This is the nongermane thing from the Senate comes in.
6. At some point both houses must vote YES. In theory the representatives vote how the people they represent would vote, in practice however, there are many other factors that determine how they vote:

Logrolling: trading votes, "vote for this and I will vote for you"

Personal background: voting how their conscience directs them to regardless of the will of the people.

7. The bill may be passed around multiple times in the same house or between houses before both sides agree.
8. The bill is then passed to the president.

BUDGETING

1970 - The Office of Management and Budget

- Headed by the Chief Exec's accountant
- Considers the needs of all federal depts, agencies, philosophy of the current govt, other factors

1974 - The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act.

- The Exec branch gets to propose, Congress gets to decide with presidential and departmental/agencial input.
- It takes forever, often almost a year.
- Reconciling the budget is when you pass changes to revenue/spending by a simple majority in both houses, under the constraint of time.
- There are somethings that Congress must spend money on, such as programs involving the safety net or health insurance. 2.7T or more than 60% of the budget is mandatory.
- The three main categories of spending are mandatory, discretionary and paying interest / debt off.

- The difference between the intake and the outtake is the deficit, which is basically our debt.

SOURCES:

- Overall, the federal government is expected to take in about 3.4 trillion dollars. These are the kinds of taxes that fund it:

Type	Remarks
Individual income taxes	Taxes that each person must pay upon receiving income.
Corporate taxes	Taxes that each business must pay upon receiving income.
Payroll taxes	Taxes that an employer must pay upon paying employees. Usually used to fund social services such as SS and Medicare.
Tariffs	Taxes imposed on the import of certain goods. This is not primarily to raise revenue, but rather, to allow for U.S. made products to compete with foreign made ones.
Other Sources	Estate taxes, taxes on investment, etc.