**Comparison of political systems in USA, United Kingdom, and Germany – all are parliamentary systems**

| **Criterion** | **US** | **GB** | **Germany** | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| political system | presidential republic or federal constitunional republic with three governmental branches | Parliamentary monarchy with a democratic parliamentary government | democratic, federal parliamentary republic |  |
| **executive body** |  |  |  |  |
| *head of state* | president | Monarch -> responsible for ceremonial duties | federal president; President of the Federal Republic of Germany |  |
| *head of government* | president | prime minister | chancellor |  |
| *cabinet/government* | * Federal government with president and ministers * State governments with governor | * UK government with prime minister and ministers * Devolved national administrations (Scottish, Welsh Government, and Nothern Ireland Executive) | * federal government with chancellor * federal state governments |  |
| *agencies* | Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) maintaining field offices in major cities | National Crime Agency (NCA) | e.g. Federal Criminal Police Office; Federal Intelligence Service (Bundesnachrichtendienst) |  |
| **legislative bodies** | Congress   * Senate * House of Representatives | UK Parliament   * House of Commons * House of Lords | * Lower House of Parliament; Federal Diet (Bundestag) * Upper House of Parliament; Federal Council (~rat) | Both bodies in the US are elected. In the UK and Germany only the House of Commons and the Lower House of Parliament are elected, respectively. |
| **judicial body** | Supreme Court | * Senior Court of England and Wales * Supreme Court of the UK | German Federal Supreme Court |  |
| formal constitution | * federal Constitution of US * Constitutions of states | no formally written constitution, but entire body of laws and principles | Basic Law Constitutions of federal states |  |
| political parties | Two parties (Democrats and REpublicans) | Many parties representing diverse constituencies | many parties with proportional representation and direct mandates acc. to majority of votes in constituencies |  |
| elections | president is elected for 4 years and House of Representatives is elected every 2 years Senate: one third is re-elected every two years to serve for six years | every 5 years | Federal elections every four years  State elections every five years |  |

Details about the German political system can be studied on: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Germany>; 25.08.2024

**Information on the state elections in Germany (Saxony 2024 in particular)**

* German Legislature 2 houses
  + Lower House of Parliament (Bundestag), 4-year term
  + Upper House of Parliament (~rat), 5-year term and
* Upper House of Parliament
* has 69 members
* each federal state (16) sends 3 to 6 representatives depending on the population (Saxony has four representatives from CDU, SPD and the Green Party)
* constitution determines the number of votes each federal state has: minimum 3 votes, 4 votes with population of more than 2 million; 5 votes with pop. of more than 6 million, 6 votes with population of more than 7 million
* graduated voting weight is compromise to
* responsible for legislation (task described in constitution article 50)
* federal government determines the members
* Parliament of Saxony
* 120 seats, equally 60 direct mandates and 60 list votes obtained by each list of candidates
* minimum 5 % of the votes
* Who votes? (§ 11 SächsWahlG and Artikels 116 Abs. 1 GG)
* age 18
* main residence in the constituency (Wahlgebiet) for three months
* not being excluded from voting acc. to § 12 SächsWahlG, i. e. because of sentence