

Congress

House of representatives

- Allocation of seats based on population
- Appeases the large states
- Changed based on 10 year census
- 1 house member minimum
- 435 members
 - No more seats allocated
 - Reapportionment
 - Seats are reallocated every 10 years after census
 - Seats taken or given based on population declining or growing
 - Redistricting
 - Redraw the district lines to reflect the number of representatives
 - Gerrymandering
 - Use redistricting for political gains
- The house “closer to the people”
- The lower house
- Elected by citizens
 - Highly responsive to the people
- Two year terms
- California’s 18th congressional district
 - SJSU is within its boundary
 - Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D)
- Qualifications
 - 25 or older
 - Citizen for 7 years
 - Reside in the state they serve
 - No property-holding or religious requirement as many state constitutions had in earlier times
 - No term limits, unlike the Articles of Confederations
 - You don’t need to live in the district to run for that district
- Government
 - All revenue (taxation) bills must originate here
 - “Power of the purse”
- Leadership
 - The house elects a speaker of the house

- Leader of the majority party
- Does not vote often
- “Sets the House’s agenda”
- Influence over rules committee and committee appointments
- Speaker of the house
 - Rep. Mike Johnson (LA, R)
 - The republicans are the majority party in the house
- House majority leader
 - Rep. Steve Scalise (LA, R)
 - Leads majority party on the floor of the House
 - (is supposed to) negotiate with the minority leader and the president
 - Build coalitions to try to pass legislation
- House minority leader
 - Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY, D)
 - Leader of the minority party in the house
 - Maintains coalitions within the party
 - (is supposed to) negotiate with the majority party
- Party whips
 - Keep the “rank and file” members in touch with the leadership
 - Ensues party-line voting
 - Rep. Tom Emmer (MN, R)
 - Rep. Katherine M. Clark (MA, D)

Senate

- Equal representation
- Each state has two senators
- Appeases the small states
- Malapportionment
 - Unequal representation in a legislative body
 - Is there unequal representation in the US Senate
- Originally created by the framers because they wanted to balance out the house of representatives
 - How were they chosen and why
 - Originally chosen by state legislatures
 - 17th amendment
 - Now they are directly elected by the people
- Six year terms
 - 1 / 3 up for election every two years
- California’s US Senators

- Laphonza Butler (D)
 - Replaced by appointment after Diane Feinstein's death to fill the remaining of the term
- Alex Padilla (D)
- Qualifications
 - 30 or older
 - Citizen for 9 years
 - More "mature" of the two chambers
 - Wiser and more stable branch vs branch more directly responsive to the people
 - You have to live in the state you serve for
 - No term limits
- Powers
 - Ratify treaties
 - Confirm ambassadors
 - Confirm top executive branch appointees
 - Presidential cabinet
 - CIA / FBI directors
 - etc
 - Confirm US supreme court justices
 - And confirm other federal justices (1789 judiciary act)
- Leadership
 - President of the senate
 - Vice president of the US
 - Kamala Harris
 - They can vote to break ties
 - They are rarely presiding over senate
 - President pro tempore
 - They preside over the senate in the absence of the VP
 - This is mostly position of honor, not power
 - They are rarely presiding over senate
 - Usually senator in the majority party who has served the longest
 - Sen. Patty Murry (WA, D)
 - Don't get to vote during ties
 - Senate majority leader
 - Leader of the majority party on the floor of the senate
 - Negotiates with president and minority party leaders
 - Less power than speaker and majority leader of the house
 - Each senator has equal power to hold up legislation
 - Most powerful person in the senate

- Charles “Chuck” Schumer (NY, D)
- Mitch McConnell (KY, R)
 - He is leaving at the end of the term

Congress powers

- Power of the sword
 - Congress has the power to declare war
- Elastic clause
 - Make laws that are necessary and proper

Committees

- Standing committees
 - Permanent
- Conference committees
 - Made for a bill
- Some other committees idk
- Select committees
 - Not permanent, exists to deal with an existing issue
 - Not dealing with legislation
- Prestige committees
 - Taxes

Senators

- More assignments
- More staff

Fenno

Senate directly elected by the people after the 13th amendment

HABBAL (How A Bill Becomes A Law)

- Anyone can help draft a bill
- A bill can be introduced on either side
 - Revenue bills must start in the house of representatives
- The bill goes straight to committee
 - Goes to the relevant committee
- The bill goes to the subcommittee
 - Bill is marked up
 - 15% make it out
 - Marked up bill has to be approved

- Goes back to the committee
- Gets marked up
- If it makes it out of the committee process
- House specific
 - Rules committee puts a bunch of rules on it
 - open/closed/restricted rule
 - Open rule - can have amendments
 - Closed rule - cannot have amendments
 - Restricted rule - can only have some amendments
 - How long to debate the bill
 - They can put rules to kill the bill
 - Then goes to the floor
 - Debates for however long they're allowed
 - Then house votes yes or no
- Senate specific
 - No rules committee for the bill
 - Everything done through unanimous consent for all the rules
 - Need a filibuster proof majority
 - 60 votes
- After both chambers pass the bill, they have to reconcile the two versions of the bill (one per chamber)
 - If it's not already the same version, a conference committee with members from the senate and house (republicans and democrats)
 - It has to go back to both chambers to get voted on by both chambers
- Then the bill goes to the president
 - An enrolled bill is one that has been presented to the president
 - The president has multiple options
 - Sign it
 - Veto it
 - Ignore it (will pass automatically after 10 days)
 - Pocket veto
 - If congress goes out of session within the 10 days it gets vetoed
- Line item veto / item veto
 - They could veto parts of a bill
 - Striking out line items
 - Could only be done with spending bills
 - This was struck down the supreme court
 - Violated separation of powers doctrine
 - Because the president would be altering legislation by line item vetoing

- Essentially creating new legislation
- Presentment law
 - Enrolled bill presented to the president
 - Line item veto not a constitutional option
 - You would have to amend the constitution for that
- Governor newsom can do line item veto
 - Because the California constitution gives him that power
 - Therefore this did not get struck down in california because
- Process not over after president signs the bill