

1.10 Unit 1 Assessment

Contents

	The Branches of Government	3
	The Houses of Congress	7
	How an idea becomes law	10
	Becoming a Supreme Court Justice	11
	Checks & Balances	12
	The Bill of Rights	13
	Amendments	15
	The Constitution	16
	Sources & Notes	17



The Branches of Government





The Branches of Government

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

Main Duty: Write and Pass Laws

People/Positions: Representatives and Senators



The Branches of Government

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

Main Duty: Sign bills into law or veto bills

People/Positions: President, Vice President, Secretary of Labor, Sec. of State, Sec. of Health & Human Services, Sec. of Treasury, Sec. of Housing & Urban Development, Sec. of Defense, Sec. of Transportation, Attorney General, Sec. of Energy, Sec. of the Interior, Sec. of Education, Sec. of Agriculture, Sec. of Veterans Affairs, Sec. of Commerce, and Sec. of Homeland Security



The Branches of Government

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

Main Duty: Interpret laws & rule them constitutional or not

People/Positions: Justice



The Houses of Congress





The Houses of Congress

House of Reps

Senate

How Members Selected: Democratically in elections

How many: 435 representatives (219 Republican, 213 Democrat, 3 Vacant*)

Key powers: Must start all revenue bills

**1 representative, Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ-7) has yet to be sworn in. Seat considered Vacant.*

Representative count sourced from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives



The Houses of Congress

House of Reps

Senate

How Members Selected: Democratically in elections

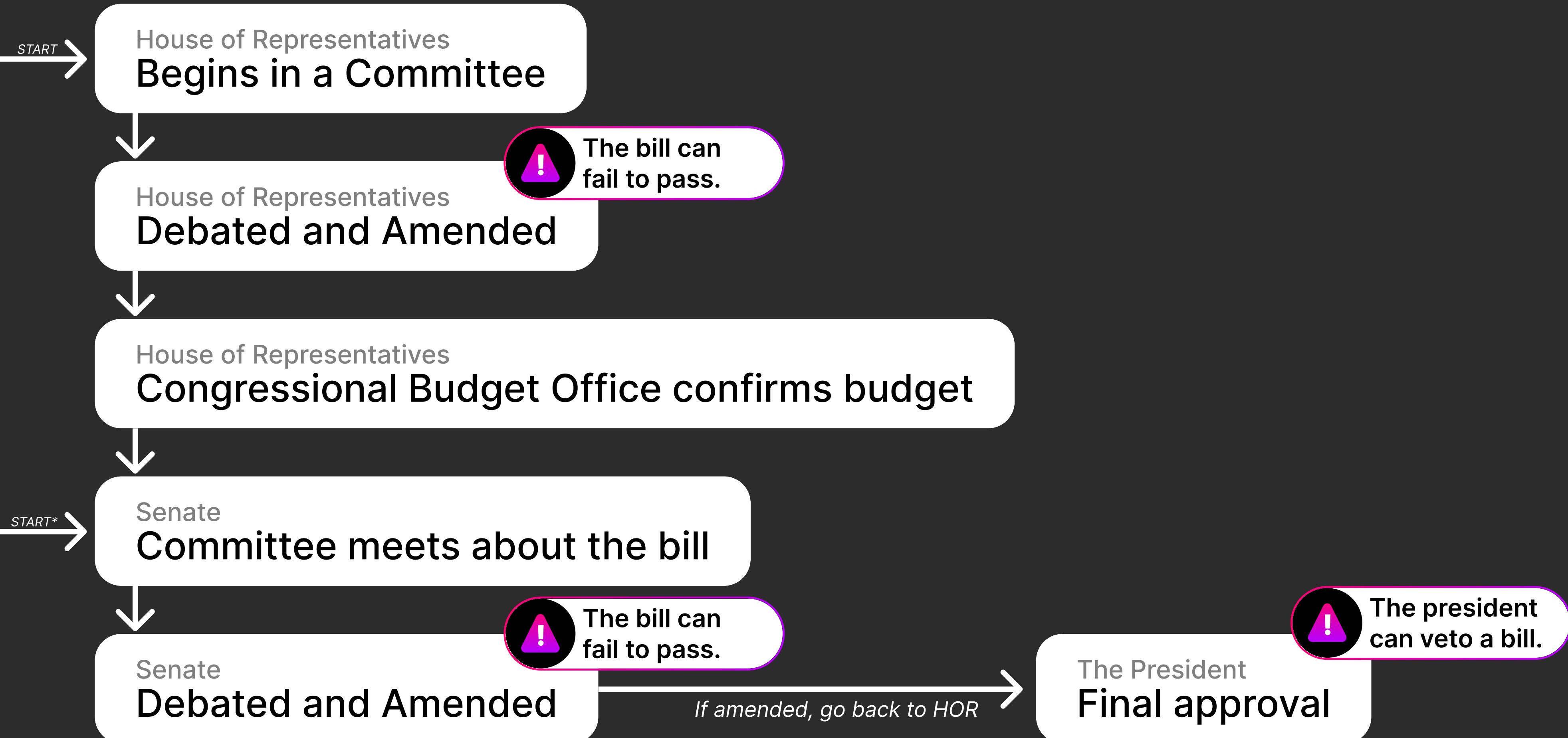
How many: 100 senators (53 Republican, 45 Democrat, 2 Independent*)

Key powers: Acts as jury in impeachment trials (2/3 vote needed)

**2 Independent Senators, Angus King of Maine and Bernie Sanders of Vermont caucus with the Democrats.
Senator count sourced from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate*



How an idea becomes a law



**If bills start in the Senate, they must go to the HOR before final approval*



Becoming a Supreme Court Justice





Checks & Balances

Legislative Branch on Executive: Can impeach a President

Legislative Branch on Judicial: Can initiate a constitutional amendment

Executive Branch on Legislative: Can veto laws

Executive Branch on Judicial: Appoints members of the Supreme Court

Judicial Branch on Legislative: Can rule laws unconstitutional

Judicial Branch on Executive: Can rule actions unconstitutional



The Bill of Rights

Forming the first 10 amendments to the constitution, the Bill of Rights includes basic rights for individuals and states. They are as follows:

Amendment 1: Congress can not make a law that favors any religion, prevents the 'free exercise' of any religion, limit speech, limit the press, prevent peaceful assemblies to ask the government to change something.

Amendment 2: Congress can't prevent people from carrying or having weapons.

Amendment 3: Soldiers can not forcibly live in your house, except in times of war. Even in times of war, congress will pass a law and set the rules.

Amendment 4: No one can forcibly search you or your property without a judge's approval or a good reason.

Continues on next slide



The Bill of Rights (cont.)

Amendment 5: You can not be tried for any serious crime without a Grand Jury meeting and agreeing that there is enough evidence against you; if you are found innocent, the government can not try you again for the same crime; you can not be forced to admit guilt; you can not be jailed, fined, or killed unless found guilty by a jury, all proper legal steps were taken during your arrest and trial; the government can not take your property, or anything of yours, unless you are paid a fair amount.

Amendment 6: If arrested and charged: you have a right to a trial in public; your trial to be decided by a jury, if wanted; you have the right to know what you are accused of and to cross-examine, see, and hear those who are witnesses against you; you have a right to a lawyer, if you can not afford one, one will be appointed to you at no cost.

Continues on next slide



The Bill of Rights (cont.)

Amendment 7: You can have a jury in a civil case if you wish.

Amendment 8: The government can not make you pay an unreasonable amount in fines or bail, and can not enact unusual or cruel punishments, even if found guilty.

Amendment 9: Just because these rights are in the constitution, does not mean you do not have other rights too.

Amendment 10: Anything not said in the constitution that congress can do, is the duty of states and the people.

Adapted from ACLU Delaware: <https://www.aclu-de.org/en/know-your-rights/bill-rights-simple-language>



Amendments

Amendments are essentially just edits. They may address something that wasn't addressed in the original text.

For example in Congress, you'll see bills get amended. This could be part of a compromise between political parties to get the bill passed.

Also, you'll commonly hear about the constitution's amendments. The most common amendments mentioned are the first (see slide 12) and second. (see slide 12)



The Constitution

The constitution, also known as ‘the law of the land’, is a document that establishes the federal government and its boundaries.

It contains a Preamble, which states the purpose of the government. (it also has those famous words, “We The People”)

The preamble is followed by 3 articles.

Article 1 establishes the legislative branch, or Congress. (see slide 4)

Article 2 establishes the executive branch, or the Presidency. (see slide 5)

Article 3 establishes the judicial branch, or the Supreme Court. (see slide 6)

The constitution has received many updates over its 240 year life, these are called amendments and there is 27 of them, the first ten being part of the Bill of Rights. (see slides 12-14)

Many sources were used in this slide, see slide 18 for all sources.



Sources and Notes

Slide 8:

- 1 representative, Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ-7) has yet to be sworn in. Seat considered Vacant.
- Representative count sourced from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives

Slide 9:

- 2 senators, Angus King (I-ME) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) caucus with the Democrats.
- Senator count sourced from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate

Continues on next slide



Sources and Notes (cont.)

Slide 10:

- If a bill starts in the Senate, it must go to the House of Reps. before final approval from the President.

Slides 12-14:

- Content adapted from ACLU Delaware: <https://www.aclu-de.org/en/know-your-rights/bill-rights-simple-language>

Slide 16:

- Many sources were used, including the National Constitution Center, and the National Archives.
(<https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution> & <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution/what-does-it-say>)

The End