

Article I: Legislative Branch

Jobs of Congress

- Legislate- make the laws
- Lay and collect taxes
- Pass appropriations- authorizes the government to spend money
- Oversight- investigate how money is spent, how the government is run, etc.
- Declare war

Powers

- Delegated powers- powers given to Congress by the Constitution
 - Expressed power-specifically spelled out in the constitution; enumerated powers
 - inherent power-given to the National government because it is the government of a sovereign state
 - implied power- those “necessary and proper” powers required to carry out the expressed powers
- Concurrent powers: powers shared between national and state governments (levy and collect taxes)
- Reserved powers: powers given to the states (outlaw prostitution)

How Congress is Organized to Make Policy

–Bicameral: legislature divided into two houses

- **The House**

- 435 members; based on population
- 2 year terms of office
- Must be at least 25, U.S citizen for at least 7 years, & must inhabit the state to run
- Referred to as Congressman or Representative
- Represent people in a District
- Limited debates
- Brings impeachment charges

- **The Senate**

- 100 members (2 per state)
- 6 year terms of office
- Must be at least 30 , U.S citizen for at least 9 years, & inhabit the state to run
- Referred to as Senator
- Represent people across the entire state
- Gives “advice & consent” i.e. confirms presidential appointments, treaties
- Unlimited debates (filibuster)
- Tries impeachment cases

U.S House of Representatives

Republicans

2016: 238

4 vacancies

2012: 233, 3 vacancies

2014: 247



Speaker of the House

Paul Ryan (R)

Democrats

2016: 193

2012: 199

2014: 188



Majority Leader

Kevin McCarthy (R)

Minority Leader

Nancy Pelosi (D)



Majority Whip

Steve Scalise (R)

Minority Whip

Steny Hoyer (D)



Congressional Leadership

● The House

- Led by Speaker of the House—elected by House members- caucus
- Presides over House
- Major role in committee assignments and legislation
- Assisted by majority leader and whips

● The Senate

- Formerly led by Vice President
- Really lead by Majority Leader—chosen by party members- caucus
- Assisted by whips
- Must work with Minority leader

Reapportionment

- Occurs every 10 years after a census
- Congressional lines are redrawn by State Legislatures to reflect population changes
- 435 total does not change; states can either gain/lose representation
- ***Baker vs. Carr***- formulated the “one person, one vote” standard for legislative redistricting
- According to the Constitution, each state is guaranteed at least **1** seat in the House
- Single member district- a district that returns one officeholder to a legislative body (multi-member districts are electoral districts represented by more than one elected leader)
- **For example:**
 - prior to 2000: Texas, 32 members of Congress (30 House + 2 Senators)
 - 2000: Texas, 34 members of Congress (32 H + 2 S)
 - 2010: Texas, 38 members of Congress (36 H + 2 S)

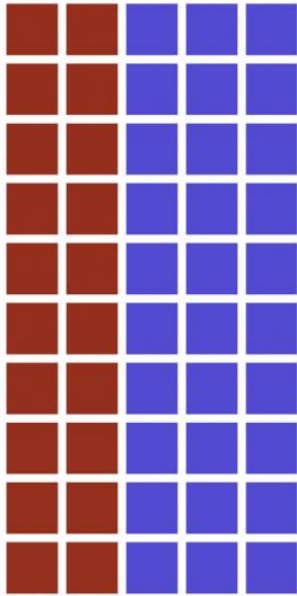
Gerrymandering

- Practice of drawing electoral district lines in order to limit or dilute the voting strength of a particular group; disadvantage the group
- Court has ruled that lines can be drawn for political reasons but not for reasons based on race

Gerrymandering, explained

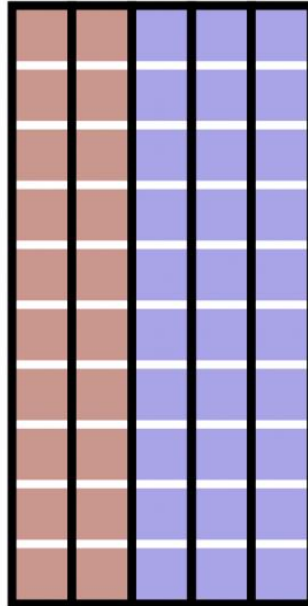
Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts

50
people



**60% blue,
40% red**

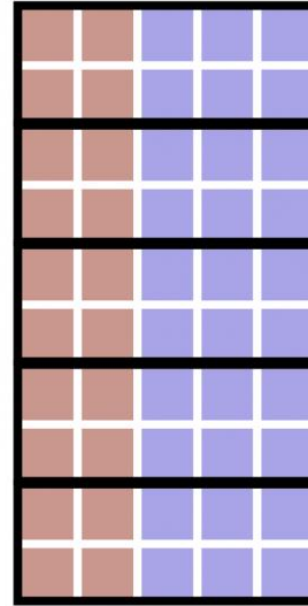
1. Perfect
representation



**3 blue districts,
2 red districts**

BLUE WINS

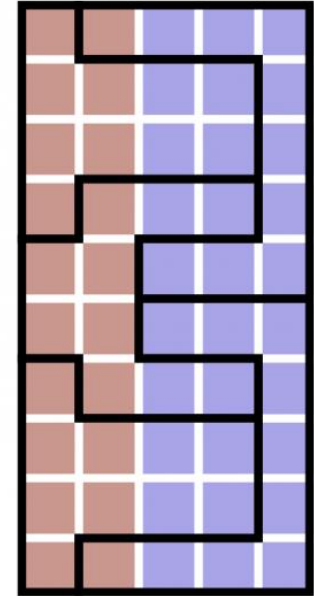
2. Compact,
but unfair



**5 blue districts,
0 red districts**

BLUE WINS

3. Neither compact
nor fair



**2 blue districts,
3 red districts**

RED WINS

Pennsylvania redistricting

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court on Monday issued a new congressional district map for the state's 2018 elections:

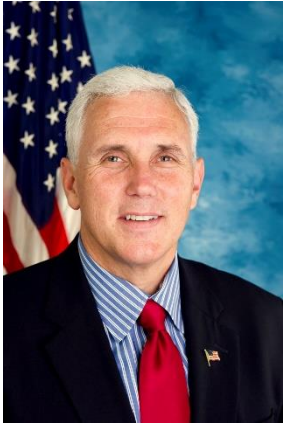


SOURCES: Pennsylvania Redistricting; AP election results

AP

The Pennsylvania Supreme court overturned the existing boundaries (left), saying they had been bizarrely drawn to favor Republicans. The U.S. Supreme Court has previously declined to intervene in the dispute.

U.S Senate



President of the Senate

Mike Pence (R)
Vice-President

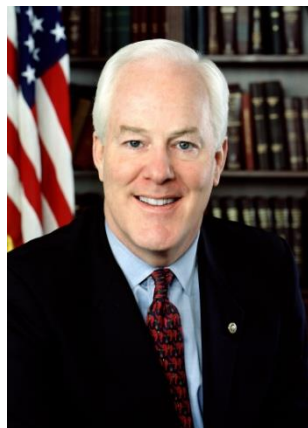
President Pro Tempore

Orrin Hatch (R)



Majority Leader
Mitch McConnell (R)

Minority Leader
Chuck Schumer (D)



Majority Whip
John Cornyn (R)

Minority Whip
Dick Durbin (D)



Republican: '16: 51, '14: 54, '12: 45

Democrats: '16: 47, '14: 44, '12: 53

Independents: '16: 2 '14: 2, '12: 2

U.S Senate

- Have a more diverse groups of constituents- (people a member represents) than the House
- Considered a continuous body because only 1/3 of the senators are up for election every 2 years

For example:

	<u>H</u>	<u>S</u>	
2000	435	33	Hillary Clinton elected
2002	435	33	
2004	435	34	
2006	435	33	Hillary Clinton reelected
2008	435	33	
2010	435	34	
2012	435	33	
2014	435	33	
2016	435	34	
2018	435	33	

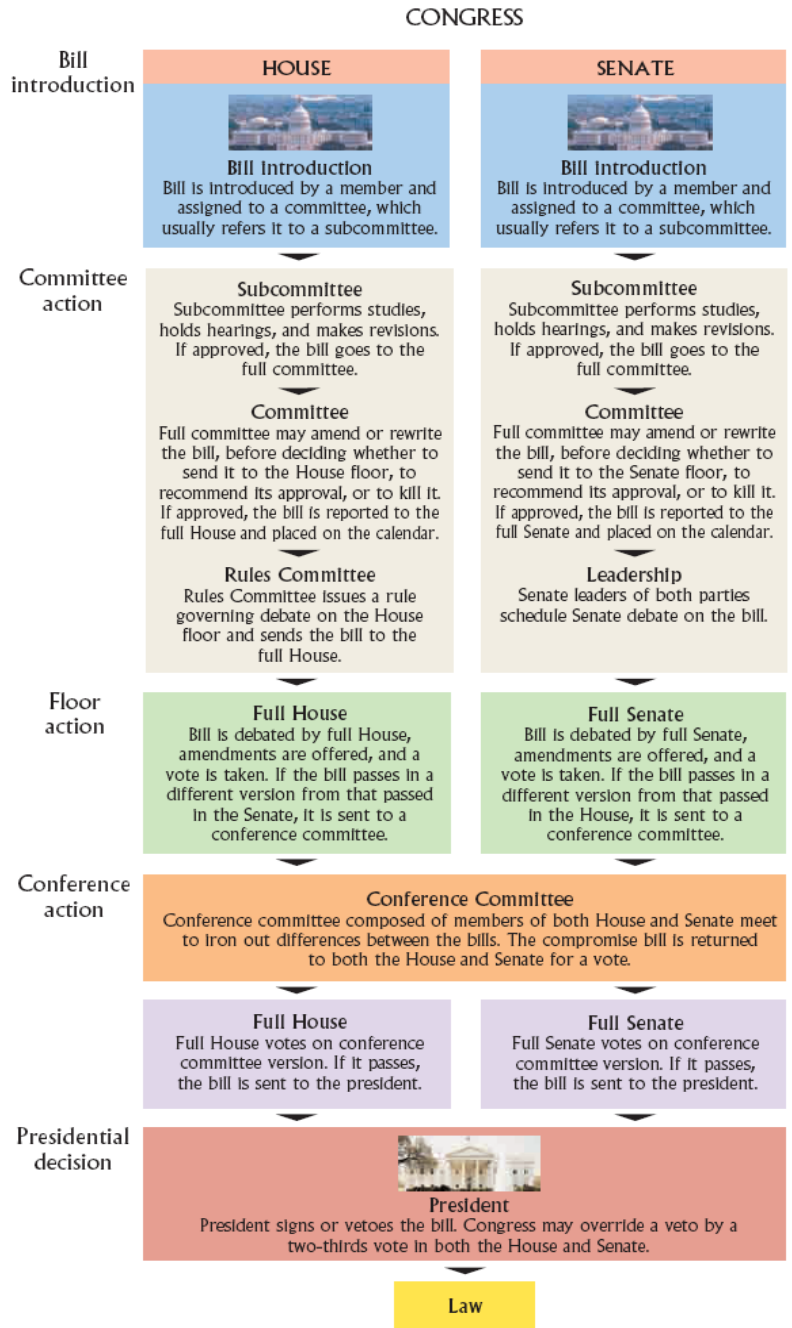
Why parties fight to win elections and remain in the Majority

- They hold Congressional Leadership positions and as a result:
 - *get to control the agenda
 - *dictate what legislation is introduced & processed
 - *set committee assignments
- The majority party has more members on each committee
- More members means more voting POWER

Congressional Elections

- Incumbent- person running for re-election
- The Advantages of Incumbents
 - Name recognition
 - Easier time raising money
 - Americans like to donate to a proven “winner”
 - Credit Claiming:
 - Service to constituents through:
 - **Casework**: specifically helping constituents get what they think they have a right to
 - » Frequent trips home, use of newsletter, and technology
 - **Pork Barrel**: federal projects, grants, etc. made available in a congressional district or state

FIGURE 12.2 How a Bill Becomes a Law



Many bills travel full circle, coming first from the White House as part of the presidential agenda, then returning to the president at the end of the process. In the interim, there are two parallel processes in the Senate and House, starting with committee action. If a committee gives a bill a favorable report, the whole chamber considers it. When the two chambers pass different versions of it, a conference committee drafts a single compromise bill.

Making Policy

President has 10 days to sign a bill.
 Congress in session, 10 days expire ---LAW
 Congress has adjourned, 10 days expire---**pocket veto**

Who Represents You?

Pflugerville ISD, 1401 W. Pecan, 78660

	Federal	State
Senate	100 U.S Senators U.S Senator Ted Cruz (R) John Coryn (R)	31 State Senate Districts State Senator Kirk Watson (D) District 14 of 31
House	435 members U.S Congressman Michael McCaul (R) District 10 of 36 in Texas	150 members State Representative Dawanna Dukes (D) District 46 of 150

Texas State Government

Legislators in Texas are considered part-time employees because the Texas Legislature only meets every 2 years

House (R majority)

- Has 150 members
- Must be at least 21, citizen of Texas for 2 years, & resident of the district for 1 year
- 2 year term
- Led by Speaker
- Current Speaker of the House
Joe Straus (R)

Senate (R Majority)

- Has 31 members
- Must be at least 26, citizen of Texas for 5 years, & resident of the district for 1 year
- 4 year term
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Senate membership is elected every two years, with the exception that all 31 Senate seats are up for election for the first legislature following the decennial census in order to reflect the newly redrawn districts.
- Led by the Lieutenant Governor; office is elected state-wide
- Current Lieutenant Governor:
Dan Patrick (R)