

CONGRESS

(LEGISLATIVE BRANCH)



CONGRESS

| | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | SENATE |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| TOTAL | 435 | 100 |
| BASED ON | POPULATION | EQUALITY |
| TERM | 2 years | 6 years |
| AGE | 25 years | 30 years |
| RESIDENCY | 7 years | 9 years |
| OFFICER | Speaker of the House | President of the Senate (VP |

SECTION 4, CLAUSE 1: ELECTIONS

The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

What responsibilities do states have?

Identify what Congress may do?

SECTION 4, CLAUSE 2: SESSIONS

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

What is a session?

SECTION 5, CLAUSE 1: QUORUM

Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each House may provide.

What is a quorum?

Quorum in the House?

Quorum in the Senate?

Quorum in this class?

SECTION 5, CLAUSE 2: RULES

Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

What are 3 rules?

SECTION 5, CLAUSE 3: RECORD

Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

What must each house do?

SECTION 5, CLAUSE 4: ADJOURNMENT

Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

What happens once Congress is in session?

WHY TWO HOUSES?

Imagine that Congress is considering a bill that would give money to states to improve roadways. The more people a state has, the more money it will get. Would the bill pass if there was only one house in Congress? Using the table above, answer these questions to find out:

Representatives from large states would vote yes no on this bill.

Representatives from small states would vote yes no on this bill.

WHY TWO HOUSES?

| | 2008 Population | House of Representatives: Number of Votes | Senate: Number of Votes |
|------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| California | 36,756,666 | 53 | 2 |
| Texas | 24,326,974 | 36 | 2 |
| New York | 19,490,297 | 27 | 2 |
| Hawaii | 1,360,301 | 2 | 2 |
| Delaware | 897,934 | 1 | 2 |
| Alaska | 710,231 | 1 | 2 |
| Wyoming | 563,626 | 1 | 2 |

2010 population data from www.census.gov