

Congress A-Z

American government revolves around three branches, one of which is the Legislative Branch.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate make up Congress, which is a bicameral legislature.

Congressional elections are held the Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each even-numbered year.

Districts are created by state legislatures.

Elections for the Senate are staggered, as $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Senate is elected every 2 years.

Formal qualifications for the House include being 25 years of age, must have been a citizen of the US for 7 years and an inhabitant of the state from which he or she is elected.

Gerrymandering is the apportioning of districts to the advantage of political parties.

House members have lower prestige and lower visibility in the news media than Senate members.

Informal characteristics of House representatives include party identification, name familiarity and ethnicity.

James Madison made the Senate terms longer so that members would not be swayed as much by the immediate impact of events.

Killing filibusters is done through a cloture, which requires $\frac{3}{5}$ vote from the Senate.

Larger constituencies are represented by the Senate.

Majority vote is required to punish Senate members for disorderly behavior.

News is more likely to cover members of the Senate, as opposed to the House.

Off-year elections are generally disastrous for the party with the presidency.

Proportional representation is used in the House.

Qualifications of the Senate include being 30 years of age, a US citizen of 9 years, and an inhabitant of the state he or she represents.

Reapportionment Act of 1929 fixed the size of the House at 435 members.

Size of the Senate has not changed since 1789.

Thurmond was the first to be elected into the Senate 9 times.

Under the case *Hunt v. Cromartie*, race can be one of the factors that shape the process of drawing district lines.

Voters directly elect senators under the 17th amendment.

Wesberry v. Sanders held that vast population differences among congressional districts in a state violate the Constitution.

Xeroxing is used extensively to mass produce advertisements for campaigns.

Young House members aspire to get re-elected and move up.

Zeppelins can be used for the expensive Senate campaigns.