

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.