

The Legislative Branch

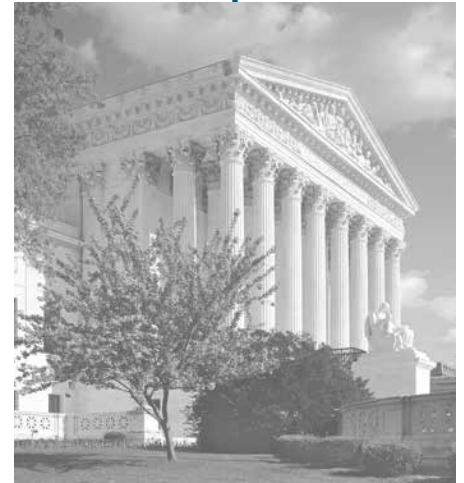
U.S. Government



Executive



Legislative



Judicial

Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The legislative branch is one part of the U.S. government.

The legislative branch is also called Congress.

Congress makes federal laws.

There are two parts of Congress:

- Senate
- House of Representatives



Aerial view of the west front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.



*The Senators of the 109th Congress.
Courtesy of the U.S. Senate Photo Studio.*

The U.S. Senate

There are one hundred members in the U.S. Senate.

Each state has two U.S. Senators.

A Senator represents all of the people in one state.

If a state has a small population, like Hawaii, there are two U.S. Senators.

If a state has a large population, like New York, there are two U.S. Senators.

This way, every state has an equal vote in the Senate.

We elect U.S. Senators for six years.

Voting for your senator is an important right and responsibility.

Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now? _____

The U.S. House of Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives has 435 voting members.

The number of U.S. Representatives for each state depends on the population.

Some states have more representatives because they have more people.

If the state has a large population, there are more representatives.

For example, Texas has a large population. In 2010, Texas had 32 representatives.

If the state has a small population, there are fewer representatives.

For example, Wyoming has a small population. In 2010, Wyoming had one representative.

We elect U.S. Representatives for two years.

Voting for your representative is an important right and responsibility.



Congressman George W. Johnson of West Virginia with a Boy Scout band from his state, June 4, 1924.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-29200.

Name your U.S. Representative.

Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

More About the U.S. Congress

The Speaker of the House is in charge of the U.S. House of Representatives.

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now? _____

If the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, the Speaker of the House becomes President.

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Review—The U.S. Congress

Read the sentences.

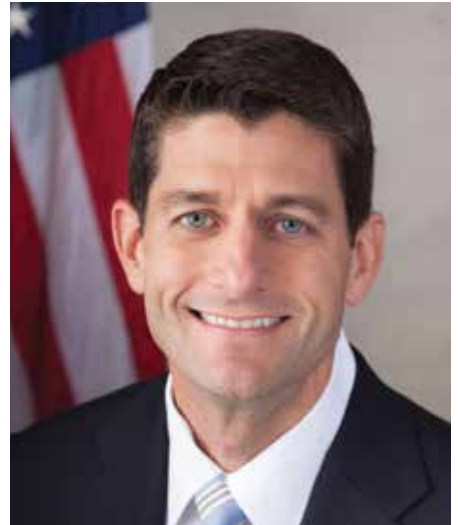
Write the correct number in each sentence.

1. Congress has _____ parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 2. The U.S. House of Representatives has _____ voting members.
 3. We elect a U.S. Representative for _____ years.
 4. We elect a U.S. Senator for _____ years.
 5. There are _____ U.S. Senators.
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Participating in American Democracy

What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

1. _____
2. _____



*Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
Courtesy of the Office of U.S. Representative Paul D. Ryan.*



*A young woman casting her ballot in the 1964 presidential election.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-04300.*

Word Puzzle—U.S. Congress

Read the sentences. Write the words in the sentences.

Fill in the letters for each word in the puzzle.

1. Congress meets in the _____ building.
2. Some states have more representatives because they have more _____.
3. There are one _____ Senators in the U.S. Senate.
4. There are three branches of _____.
5. The House of _____ has 435 voting members.
6. We _____ Senators for six years.
7. The _____ is one part of Congress.
8. Congress makes federal _____.

1. C _____
2. _____ O _____
3. _____ N _____
4. G _____
5. _____ R _____
6. _____ E _____
7. S _____
8. _____ S

Congress

Copy this word.

Congress

C_____

Co_____

Con_____

Cong_____

Congr_____

Congre_____

Congres_____

Congress_____



Opening of the last session of the 62nd Congress on December 2, 1912. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-hec-01720.

Copy the Civics Test question and answer.

Who makes federal laws? Congress.

W___ makes federal l____? C_____.

_____? _____.