**WHY IT MATTERS:**

* A responsible, responsive and effective lawmaking body is absolutely indispensable to democratic government. Without such a legislature, “talk” about democratic government is only that.

**Function:**

* Make the Laws

**Congressional Joint Powers:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Levy and collect taxes * Raise and maintain military * Grant statehood * Control national lands | * Regulate interstate trade * Naturalize citizens * Declare war * Control making of currency |

**Qualifications:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **House of Representatives** | **Senate** |
| * **Qualifications:** * \_\_\_\_\_\_ years old * U.S. Citizen for\_\_\_\_\_\_years * Resident of state elected * **Method of Selection –** * Election by the people * **Term of Office –** * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_years * **Members per State –** * Based on population – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ total * **Powers reserved for the House only** * Originates money bills (taxes) * Begins impeachment process * Elects President if Electoral College fails to do so | * **Qualifications** * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Years Old * American citizen for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years * Resident of state elected * **Method of Selection –** * Election by the people * **Term of office –** * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years * **Members per state –** * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * **Powers reserved for Senate only** * Confirm Presidential appointments * Approve/reject treaties * Jury for impeachment trial |

***WHY DID THE FOUNDERS CREATE A BICAMERAL CONGRESS?***

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**-The Framers had to create a two-chambered body to settle the conflict between the Virginia and the New Jersey Plan at the Philadelphia Convention.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**- The Framers favored a bicameral Congress in order that one house might act as a check on the other

**Voting Options:**

* **Trustees-** 
  + each decision is made on its merits. Judge independently.
* **Delegates-** 
  + vote the way “the folks back home” would want.
* **Partisans-** 
  + vote with your party
* **Politicos-** 
  + balance of the above

**The U.S. Congress in Brief’:**

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Senate**
  + *100 members*
  + *Six years*
  + *More prestigious*
* **House**
  + 435
  + 2 years
  + *Reapportioned after each census*

**SIZE AND TERMS:**

* HOUSE=435
  + Is not set by Constitution. Rather, it is set by Congress.
  + The Constitution process that the total number of apportioned among the States on the basis of their respective populations.
* Article I of the Constitution directs Congress to reapportion the seats in the House after each decennial census.
* SENATE=100
  + Each State gets 2 senators.

**Congressional Elections:**

* Elections are held on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in every state.
* *Since 1872 Congress has required that those elections be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of each Even-Numbered year.*
* **Off-Year Elections**
  + Congressional elections that occur in the nonpresidential years.