**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.