The Representatives and Senators

- **The Members:**
  - ______ in total - 100 Senators and 435 members of the House
  - Requirements to be a member of Congress:
    - House Requirements - at least 25 years old, citizen for 7 years
    - Senate Requirements - at least 30 years old, citizen for 9 years
    - All members must live in the ______ they represent
  - Most members are white males
  - ________________ representation - being nearly identical to constituents in terms of personal and political characteristics
    - Rarely happens
  - ________________ representation - represent interests of groups
- **Why Aren’t There More Women in Congress?**
  - Women are nominated by major parties at a smaller rate (31% in 2008)
  - Women with children tend to be less ambitious than those without when it comes to running for office

**Congressional Elections**

- **Who Wins Elections?**
  - ________________ - those that hold an office and are running for re-election
    - Incumbents often win elections
      - 1994 Congressional Elections - significant changes
        - _____% of senators and _____% of representatives won that were incumbents
    - Incumbency is more powerful in the House than Senate - why?
      - Senate serves a ____________, more diverse population
      - Senators tend to have less ________________ with constituents
      - Senate seat is more prestigious, tend to get more competition
  - **The Advantages of Incumbency:**
    - ________________ - sort of - 28% of Americans could name their House member
    - Members focus on advertising, credit claiming, and position
What does impeach mean?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Taking</th>
<th>Advertising</th>
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<td>• Frequent contact with constituents</td>
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<td>• <strong>________________________</strong> - using mail without having to pay for postage</td>
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<td>• Recorded messages, emails, and other technology are often used</td>
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| Credit Claiming | **________________________** - helping individuals or groups achieve a goal |
| • Helping an individual get $ from Social Security on time |
| • **________________________** - Federal $ for local projects - bridges, roads, infrastructure |

| Position Taking | State where they stand on certain issues and topics |
| Weak Opponents | House members especially are likely to face weak opponents that have little $ |

| Campaign Spending | House winners spend over $1.5 million, Senators over $8 million! |
| • **________________________** (no incumbent)? The one who spends the most usually wins |

| The Role of Party | For those that identify with a party, they overwhelmingly vote for a House member of the same party |

| Defeating Incumbents | Negative publicity about incumbent helps challengers |
| • States that lost population may see incumbents challenge each other for a seat |
| • Political shifts - 1994 and 2006 midterm elections |

| Open Seats | Largest cause of **________________________** in Congress is when there is no incumbent |

| Stability and Change | Is stability good? Can gain more expertise, but also become more entrenched |

### How Congress Is Organized

| American Bicameralism | Bicameral - **________________________** |
| • 2 Senators per state, House is based on population - Great Compromise |
| • A bill must pass each part of Congress |

| The House | Parties play an important role - often voting occurs along lines |
| • House can **________________________** and revenue bills originate here |

| **________________________**: | Determines when bills will be voted on and how much debate time |
| • Members are appointed by the Speaker of the House |
- The Senate
  - Can ratify ________________________________, and try impeachment cases
  - ______________________ - provides unlimited debate on bills - Strom Thurmond's 24 hour and 18 minute filibuster
  - Cloture - 60 members can vote to end a filibuster; rarely used
- Congressional Leadership
  - Party Leadership plays a significant role
- The House
  - Speaker of the House - chosen by the majority party
    - Often, (s)he is the senior member, ______ in succession to the presidency
    - Chooses ______________________ assignments
  - Majority Leader schedules bills, gains support for votes
  - ______________________ - carry messages to party members, count votes prior to being cast
  - Minority Leader - similar role to Majority leader to the party not in power
- The Senate
  - ________ is the president of the Senate
  - Majority Leader - provides a key role in committee assignments, scheduling, etc.
- Congressional Leadership in Perspective
  - Members of Congress still have autonomy in light of the influence of parties in Congress
- The Committees and Subcommittees
  - ______________________ - deal with different bills (Agriculture committee, Budget, etc.)
  - ______________________ Committees - Members are from both the House and Senate
  - ______________________ Committees - formed to reconcile different bills passed by both Houses
  - Select Committees - have a specific duty - intelligence
- Legislation and Oversight
  - 9,000 bills submitted over 2 years!
  - Committees often change bills
  - ______________________ - monitor agencies and policies established by Congress
- Getting on a Committee
  - Members, especially new ones, want to be appointed to relevant committees
  - Committees help members take part in ______________________ to constituents
- Committee Chairs and the Seniority System
  - Committee Chairs - schedule hearings, appoint subcommittees, etc.
  - Seniority System - generally used to select chairs, but not required
  - ______________________ have been established on committee chairs
- Caucuses: The Informal Organization of Congress
• Caucus - Congress members that have ________________________
  • Caucuses promote interests of their group, similar to an interest group, but members are Congress people
  • Examples? Black caucus, Hispanic caucus, Sunbelt, etc.
• Congressional Staff
  • Personal Staff
    • House members- _____ staff members, Senators - ____!
    • Staff members often help constituents directly, have offices in the districts they represent
    • Also help draft _________________________
  • Committee Staff
    • 2,000 staff members - help draft reports
    • _________________________ often focus on committee staff members
• Staff Agencies
  • Congressional Research Service - tracks the progress of bills
  • Government Accountability Office - provides legal options and settles claims against the government
  • Congressional Budget Office - analyzes the ___________ ________________________________

The Congressional Process

• Bill - a proposed law
  • Although anyone can draft (write) a bill, only Congress members can submit them
  • Assigning a bill to multiple ____________________________ simultaneously helps bring more attention to the bill
• Presidents and Congress: Partners and Protagonists
  • President is often called the ____________________________ - can and does propose many bills
  • White House staff members lobby Congress
• Party, Constituency, and Ideology
  • Party Influence
    • Parties are often united in electing Congressional leaders
    • They often disagree on other issues - civil rights
  • Polarized Politics
    • Differences between parties have increased in recent years - Republicans move to the ________________, Democrats to the ____________
    • _________________________ is more difficult to obtain
    • State legislatures create House boundaries - often have become increasingly partisan
• Party, Constituency, and Ideology
  • Constituency Opinion Versus Member Ideology
    • Views of Representatives:
      • _________________________ - “using their best judgement to make policy in the interests of the people” (356)
• Instructed _______________________________ - “Mirroring the preferences of their constituents” (356)
• Politicos - a mix of trustee and instructed delegates
  • Personal ideology is the biggest factor in how a member of Congress votes
  • If a constituency has strong preferences on an issue, members of Congress usually follow through with those beliefs
• Lobbyists and Interest Groups
  • ___________________________ tend to focus on those members of Congress that share similar beliefs
  • Over the years, lobby regulations have increased, restricting benefits that politicians can receive

Understanding Congress

• Congress and Democracy
  • Americans have little influence over ________ Congress is run - committee appointments, leaders, etc.
  • People from Montana have more power over Senators than people from California
• Representativeness Versus Effectiveness
  • Congress and committees often have competing interests
  • Critics argue Congress ______________________ to many people and groups, thus the government spends too much $
  • Opponents argue that there is no oligarchy (rule by a few people or groups)
• Congress and the Scope of Government
  • Pork barrel projects are favorable to members of Congress - does this encourage the government to increase its size?
  • Many Americans want lower taxes, but want to keep a significant amount of government programs

Quick Recap

• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________