

## U.S. CONGRESS

### What is the U.S. Congress?

Congress is the legislative branch of government. It is made up of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The capitol building is where Congress meets in Washington, D.C. People in Congress usually belong to either the Republican or Democratic party.



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The number of representatives that each state gets is figured out from the population of the state. The house is led by the **Speaker of the House**.

### What can Congress do?

- make new laws
- borrow money
- declare war
- set up courts
- ratify (approve) treaties that the President makes
- confirm Supreme Court Justices
- impeach federal officials (*House of Representatives*)
- amend the Constitution

## Who can be a member of Congress?

*House of Representatives:*

- at least 25 years old
- U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
- Live in the state where elected

*Senate:*

- at least 30 years old
- U.S. citizen for at least 9 years
- Live in the state where elected

## Making Laws:

A law starts out as a **bill** that is introduced by a member of Congress. Each bill is given to one or more committees. If the committees

approve  
Congress  
reject  
President  
for

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Imp

Change the Constitution

Cut the President's salary

Use government money to buy a new house

Make laws

Burn down homes of people who don't pay taxes

Propose a new bill

Declare war

Borrow money

Draw an X through people who could not serve as a U.S. Senator.

25 year old woman

35 year old man

35 year old citizen of Ghana

50 year old resident of France

40 year old resident of Texas

20 year old resident of Ohio

55 y

Dr  
gov

Sen  
Pres  
Spe  
judg  
Rep  
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