

The Legislative Branch



USA Political System

The Congress

- The **United States Congress** is the legislative branch of the federal government. It is bicameral, comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Functions of the Congress

- making laws
- establishing federal courts
- approving the choice of federal judges and the Cabinet
- setting taxes
- borrowing money
- regulating interstate commerce
- impeachment and conviction of the President
- declaring war

The US Capitol

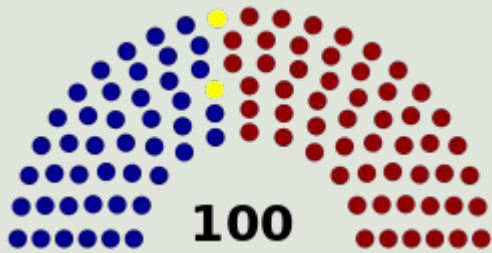


is the seat of the United States Congress, located atop Capitol Hill at the eastern end of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The Congress consists of

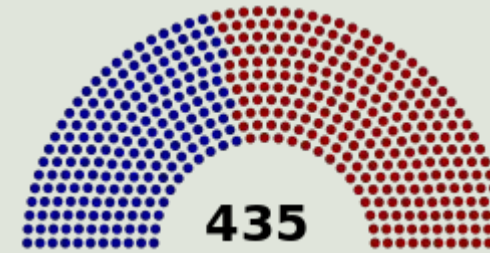
The Senate (upper house)

- 100 members (2 from each state), elected for 6 years (**republicans**, **democrats** and **independent**).
- Senators must be over 30 and have been US citizens for at least 9 years.



The House of Representatives (lower house)

- 435 members (depends on the population of the state), elected for 2 years.
- Representatives must be over 25 and have been US citizens for at least 7 years.



Number of Representatives

