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# The United States Congress in a Separated Powers System

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Christopher M. Davis & Valerie Heitshusen  
*Legislative & Budget Process Section*  
*Congressional Research Service*

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# Separation of Powers / Checks and Balances



# Bicameralism

## House and Senate:

co-equal role in generation and consideration of policy proposals

**Senate:**  
handles  
treaties and  
executive  
nominations



**House:**  
originates  
revenue  
bills



# U.S. Congress

## House of Representatives

435 Representatives with 2-yr terms, elected (from districts) based on population

### Party Leaders

Majority Leader

Speaker of the House<sup>1</sup>

Minority Leader

### Committees

Agriculture  
Appropriations  
Armed Services  
Budget  
Education and the Workforce  
Energy and Commerce  
Ethics  
Financial Services  
Foreign Affairs  
Homeland Security  
House Administration  
Intelligence  
Judiciary  
Natural Resources  
Oversight and Government Reform  
Rules  
Science, Space, and Technology  
Small Business  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Veterans' Affairs  
Ways and Means

<sup>1</sup>The Speaker is both the chamber's presiding officer and the top party leader for the majority.

## Senate

100 Senators with 6-yr overlapping terms, elected from states (2 per state)

Presiding Officer<sup>2</sup>

### Party Leaders

Majority Leader

Minority Leader

### Committees

Aging  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
Appropriations  
Armed Services  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Budget  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Environment and Public Works  
Ethics  
Finance  
Foreign Relations  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Indian Affairs  
Intelligence  
Judiciary  
Rules and Administration  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
Veterans' Affairs

<sup>2</sup>The Senate President pro tempore (or his designee) typically presides over the Senate, but he is not the leader of the majority party.

### Joint Committees<sup>3</sup>

Economic  
Library  
Taxation  
Printing

<sup>3</sup>Joint committees are advisory or administrative in nature and do not consider legislation.