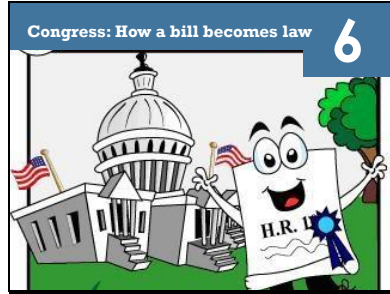


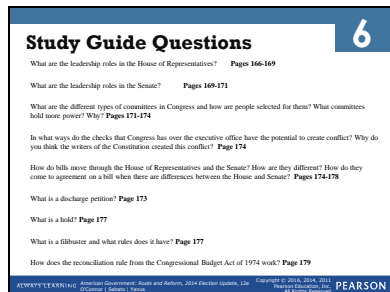
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Slide 1



The qualifications and powers of Congress are clearly defined in Article 1 of the U. S. Constitution. It is the longest of the articles in our Constitution with 10 sections. Where specifics for the other branches of government are succinct if not vague, the Constitution gives much in the way of details for the legislative branch. While Section 2 gave the original number of members to the House or Representatives for each state, the house grew as the country grew. How did we get to the number of 435 representatives who currently serve in the House? In 1910, the House expanded to 435 members. When Alaska and Hawaii became states in the late 1950s, the House increased to 437 members. The current number reverted to 435 members in 1963 by an act of Congress, or a *statute*.

Slide 2




The Framers' original vision for the legislative branch was one whose powers were narrower than those wielded by members of Congress today. Mainly, the Framers wanted a government body that could make laws and raise and spend money as required to carry out the needs of the recently formed United States. Over time, and as the needs of the country evolved, the legislative branch has seen its powers and those of the other two branches—the executive and judicial—evolve along with the changing demands of the day. Today, members of Congress must combine and balance the roles of lawmaker, budgeter, and policymaker while still representing those back home.

Slide 3

How Congress Is Organized

- ▣ Leadership in the House of Representatives
- ▣ Leadership in the Senate
- ▣ The Committee System



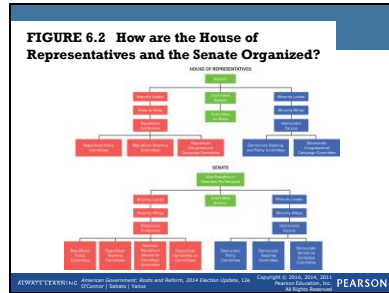
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The organization of both houses of Congress is closely tied to political parties and their strength in each chamber. Power is divided between the majority party and minority party. The majority party in each house is the party with the most members. As we will learn in this section, the party in charge has significant influence over how matters are handled in each chamber.

The leadership structure in both chambers is similar, but there are distinct differences between the House and the Senate. Congress is further organized into different layers of committees, in which much of the work of Congress is done.

Pictured here are Senator Henry M. Jackson and Congressman Tom Foley, from Spokane. Tom Foley was the only person to serve as Speaker of the House from the state of Washington. He was also the only Speaker of the House to ever lose reelection.

Slide 4



This figure shows the organizational structure of the House and Senate. While there are a number of similarities, there are also key differences.

Slide 5

Leadership in the House of Representatives

- Speaker of the House
 - Most powerful position in the House
- Leadership Teams
 - Majority Leader
 - Minority Leader
 - Whips

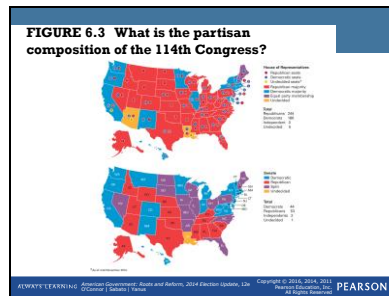
The slide features a photograph of a man in a suit, likely a member of the House of Representatives, speaking at a podium.

The Speaker of the House is the only officer of the House of Representatives specifically mentioned in the Constitution. The speaker presides over the House, oversees House business, is the official spokesperson for the House, and serves as second in the line of presidential succession should anything happen to both the president and the vice president. The speaker serves as a liaison to the Senate, and shepherds party-backed bills through the legislative process.

The entire House of Representatives elects a speaker at the beginning of each new Congress, and traditionally the speaker is a member of the majority party.

Speakers have leadership teams. The majority leader is the head of the party controlling the most seats in the House. Both the majority and minority leaders are assisted by whips—members elected by party members in caucuses and whose job it is to help persuade those in the party to toe the party line on important issues.

Slide 6



In the 114th Congress, Republicans held a majority of seats in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Source: Politico Election Central, <http://www.politico.com/2014-election/results/map/house> and <http://www.politico.com/2014-election/results/map/senate>.

Slide 7



The Constitution specifies that the vice president presides over the Senate and votes only in case of a tie. The official chair of the Senate is called the president pro tempore, or pro tem for short, who is selected by the majority party and presides over the Senate in the absence of the vice president. Because presiding over the Senate can be a routine duty, more junior members of the majority party tend to take over this activity.

The true leader of the Senate is the majority leader, who is selected by the majority party. The majority leader

works to make sure that party members vote for party bills.

The minority leader and the Republican and Democratic whips round out the leadership positions in the Senate and perform functions similar to those of their counterparts in the House. However, Senate rules give individual Senators considerable power, so being a whip in the Senate can be more challenging than being a whip in the House, even though there are fewer members to look after.

Slide 8



Much of the work that Congress does is handled in committee. Standing committees are the first and last place to which most bills go for consideration. They are called standing committees because they continue from one Congress to the next.

Joint committees are standing committees that include members from both the House and the Senate. They conduct investigations, special studies, and focus on major issues such as the economy or a specific scandal.

Conference committees are special joint committees that work out the differences in bills passed by the House and the Senate. Both chambers have to pass the exact same bill before it can become law.

Select (or Special) committees are temporary committees set up for a specific purpose, such as to investigate the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Historically, committee chairs are long-serving members of the majority

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party, though that is not always the case. Committee chairs have a great deal of influence. They decide when to hold meetings, and can kill a bill simply by refusing to schedule it for a hearing.

Members of both chambers may request membership on a particular committee based on their personal interests and expertise. In both the House and the Senate, committee membership generally reflects party distribution within that chamber.

Slide 9

TABLE 6.5 What were the committees of the 113th Congress?

TABLE 6.5 WHAT WERE THE COMMITTEES OF THE 113TH CONGRESS?

Reading Committees	
House	Senate
Agriculture	Agriculture, Forestry, and Finance
Appropriations	Appropriations
Armed Services	Armed Services
Energy	Energy, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Education and the Workforce	Budget
Foreign and International	Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Foreign Affairs	Energy and Natural Resources
Homeland Security	Environment and Public Works
House Administration	Finance
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Foreign Relations
Judiciary	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Small Business and Consumer Protection	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Civil Liberties and the Constitution	Judiciary
Civil, Intellectual Property, and the Internet	Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights
Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations	Bankruptcy and the Courts
Immigration and Border Security	The Constitution: Civil Rights, and Human Rights
Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law	Civil and Criminal
	Investigative, Religious, and Border Security

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Look closely to see the committees and subcommittees of the 112th Congress.

Slide 10

TABLE 6.5 What were the committees of the 113th Congress?

TABLE 6.5 WHAT WERE THE COMMITTEES OF THE 113TH CONGRESS?

Reading Committees	
House	Senate
Natural Resources	Foreign Relations, Intelligence, and Agency Action
Overight and Government Reform	Foreign Relations, Intelligence, and Agency Action
Small Business	Health and Administration
Science, Space, and Technology	Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Small Business	General Affairs
Transportation and Infrastructure	
Veterans Affairs	
Other and Miscellaneous	

Select, Special, and Other Committees

House	Senate	Joint Committees
Select Intelligence	Select Ethics	Economic
Select Oversight	Select Intelligence	Library
Select Oversight	Select Aging	Library
	Public Affairs	Printing

NOTE: The Administration of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees during the 113th Congress are listed in blue.

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Look closely to see the committees and subcommittees of the 112th Congress.

Slide 11

Interest Groups, Lobbyists and Political Action Committees

- Research and Data
 - Provide information to justify members' positions on legislation
 - Persuade constituents to contact or pressure members
- Fundraising
 - PACS



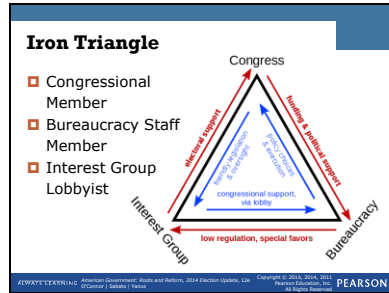
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A primary function of lobbyists is to provide information that helps convince lawmakers to vote in the interests of the lobbyist's clients. Such information can include research, data and other facts. Organized groups can persuade undecided members to vote their way or cement the votes of their allies by providing lawmakers with reasons to justify their decisions back home. In return, such lawmakers can often count on these interest groups and political action committees when it comes time to raise money for re-election.

In recent years there has been more attention given to lobbying in Congress. Many people wonder supporters of lobbying have become too powerful. Congress has tried to address this issue with new laws restricting lobbying after several notable scandals including that of Jack Abramoff, who sentenced to six years in federal prison for mail fraud, conspiracy to bribe public officials, and tax evasion.

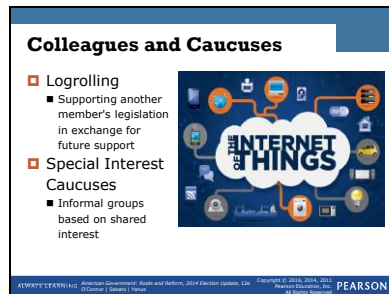
The First Amendment and recent Supreme Court rulings, have limited how far Congress can restrict lobbying.

Slide 12



An Iron Triangle is a relationship between bureaucratic agencies, congressional committees, and interest groups. Critics argue that cooperation between these entities creates an insulated process confined to a relatively small group of people who may only have their best interests at heart thereby creating policies that are not in the best interests of the country as a whole. This fear illustrates those who believe in elite theory of government where the rich and powerful ultimately create rules because of their wealth and power. Supporters of Iron Triangles argue that they bring together experts on a given matter of policy who, and, together can craft laws that work efficiently for the benefit of the “common good.” This outlook supports pluralist theory.

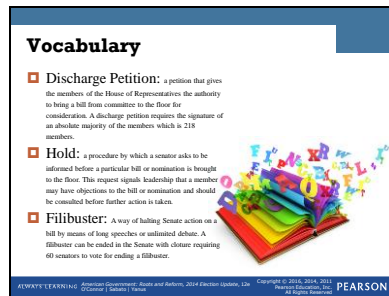
Slide 13



Congress considers a wide range of issues and bills. No one can be an expert on all of them, which is why Congress has a system of specialized committees. When members must vote on bills they know little about, they may turn to colleagues for advice. That's when logrolling, or vote trading, can occur. Logrolling often takes place on specialized projects in specific districts. A lawmaker whose district is unaffected agrees to vote a certain way in exchange for a future vote in his or her favor.

Members also turn to groups of other congressional representatives who share similar backgrounds or interests. Most of these so-called special interest caucuses are informal in nature, although some of them, such as the Black and Hispanic Caucuses, are more organized.

Slide 14



Vocabulary

- ❑ **Discharge Petition:** a petition that gives the members of the House of Representatives the authority to bring a bill from committee to the floor for consideration. A discharge petition requires the signature of an absolute majority of the members which is 218 members.
- ❑ **Hold:** a procedure by which a senator asks to be informed before a particular bill or nomination is brought to the floor. This request signals leadership that a member may have objections to the bill or nomination and should be consulted before further action is taken.
- ❑ **Filibuster:** A way of halting Senate action on a bill by means of long speeches or unlimited debate. A filibuster can be ended in the Senate with closure requiring 60 senators to vote for ending a filibuster.

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Slide 15

The Budgetary Function

- Congressional Budget Act of 1974
 - Establishes levels of spending
 - Reconciliation process to limit debates



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Since the 1920s, Congress has required the president to submit a budget to Congress. Under this plan, Congress could alter the allocation of money to different sections of the budget, but could not increase the total amount of spending proposed by the president.

When President Richard M. Nixon refused to spend money that the Democratic-controlled Congress approved for certain programs, Congress passed the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. That act created the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan agency that helps members of Congress analyze spending bills. The act also detailed the process of reconciliation, which limits debate on controversial issues affecting the budget and avoids the threat of a filibuster.

Slide 16

TABLE 6.6 What is the timeline for the congressional budgetary process?

TABLE 6.6 WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETARY PROCESS?

Date	Action
First Monday in February	President submits budget to Congress —President's budget is prepared by the Office of Management and Budget; includes requested levels of spending for the next fiscal year.
February 15	Budget outlooks —Congressional Budget Office submits economic projections to the House and Senate Budget Committees.
April 15	Budget resolution —Congress must complete action on the initial version of a budget resolution.
May 15	Appropriation begins —House begins to consider appropriations bills.
June 10	Appropriations Committee —House Appropriations Committee should conclude consideration of appropriations issues.
June 15	Reconciliation ends —House must handle any reconciliation bills by this date.
June 30	Appropriation ends —Full House should conclude consideration of all appropriations bills.
October 1	Fiscal year begins —Government's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

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This calendar gives you a sense of how long it takes Congress to develop the budget, and what some of the deadlines are.

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6.3 Which committees are responsible for hammering out differences in House and Senate bills?

- a. Standing committees
- b. Joint committees
- c. Special committees
- d. Conference committees

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Please answer this brief question on Congressional committees before we move on to the next section.

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6.3 Which committees are responsible for hammering out differences in House and Senate bills?

- a. Standing committees
- b. Joint committees
- c. Special committees
- d. Conference committees**

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Conference committees must iron out differences in bills passed by the House and Senate. A conference committee comprises members from the House and Senate committees that originally considered the bill.

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The Law-making Function

- Committee Referral
- Floor Debate
- Final Approval

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After a bill has been introduced, it goes to the appropriate committees for consideration. Committee staff members may research different aspects of the bill and the committee chair decides whether to allow the bill to have a hearing before the committee. If the subcommittee approves the bill, it goes to the full committee, where it may undergo some changes before it is presented to the floor for a debate.

The House can form a committee of 100 members who will debate and amend the bill to streamline the process so that all House members do

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not have to speak. If the bill survives this process and is passed by the House, it goes to the Senate for consideration.

The Senate may hold up a bill by a hold or a filibuster. A hold allows for additional reviewing, negotiating changes, or even an attempt to kill a bill. A filibuster, however, is a deliberate attempt to halt legislation by using long speeches or unlimited debate.

The final stage of Congress's law-making powers comes when the two chambers pass different versions of the same bill. When this happens, a conference committee works out the differences in the two bills. The bill is then returned to both chambers for a final vote.

If the bill passes, it is sent to the president, who has 10 days to consider it. The president can: sign the bill, at which point it becomes law; he can veto the bill; he can do nothing, at which point it becomes law without his signature at the end of the 10 days; or, if Congress is scheduled to adjourn within the 10 days the president can do nothing. This effectively kills the bill in a process known as a "pocket veto."

Slide 20

