

Presentation Pro

Magruder's American Government

CHAPTER 10 Congress

Congress

SECTION 1 The National Legislature

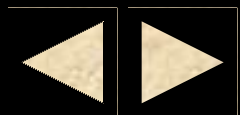
SECTION 2 The House of Representatives

SECTION 3 The Senate

SECTION 4 The Members of Congress

The National Legislature

- Why does the Constitution divide power between the two houses of Congress?
- What is a term of Congress?
- How have sessions of Congress changed over time?



Two Houses of Congress

The Constitution creates a bicameral legislature for three reasons:

Historical: The British Parliament consisted of two houses since the 1300s, and many colonial assemblies were similar in form.

Practical: A bicameral legislature was necessary to compromise the Virginia and New Jersey plans of representation.

Theoretical: The Framers favored a bicameral Congress in order that one house might act as a check on the other.

Terms

A **term** is the length of time that officials serve after an election, as in a two- or six-year term.

The date for the start of each new term has been set by the Twentieth Amendment (1933) as “noon of the 3d day of January” of every odd-numbered year.

Sessions of Congress

A **session** is the regular period of time during which Congress conducts business.

- Congress **adjourns**, or suspends until the next session, each regular session as it sees fit.
- If necessary, the President has the power to **prorogue**, or adjourn, a session, but only when the two houses cannot agree on a date for adjournment.
- Only the President may call Congress into a **special session**—a meeting to deal with some emergency situation.

Comparative Government: Legislative Bodies

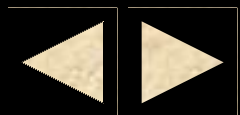
Legislative Bodies					
Country	Legislative Body	Houses if Bicameral	Number of Members	How Elected	Term of Office
 United States	Congress	House of Representatives	435	Direct popular vote	2 years
		Senate	100	Direct popular vote	6 years
 Costa Rica	Legislative Assembly		57	Direct popular vote	4 years
 France	Parlement	National Assembly	577	Direct popular vote	5 years
		Senate	321	Local electoral colleges	9 years
 Israel	Knesset		120	Direct popular vote	4 years
 Japan	Diet	House of Councillors	252	Direct popular vote	6 years
		House of Representatives	500	Direct popular vote	4 years
 Saudi Arabia	Consultative Council		90	Appointed by the king	4 years

Section 1 Review

- 1. The practical reason behind establishing a bicameral legislature was**
 - (a) the necessity to find compromise between the New Jersey and Virginia plans.**
 - (b) the need to mimic existing British institutions.**
 - (c) a desire to break from all tradition.**
 - (d) requirements set by the British monarchy.**

- 2. Special sessions of Congress**
 - (a) are called by the President to deal with some emergency situation.**
 - (b) are called whenever a senator filibusters.**
 - (c) are never called.**
 - (d) are used to handle the everyday business of Congress.**

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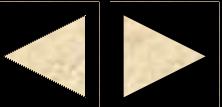


Chapter 10, Section 1

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The House of Representatives

- What are the size and terms of the House of Representatives?
- How are House seats reapportioned among the States after each census?
- How can we describe a typical congressional election and congressional district?
- What are the formal and informal qualifications for serving in the House?



Size and Terms

- The exact size of the House of Representatives, currently at 435 members, is determined by Congress.
- The Constitution provides that the total number of seats in the House shall be **apportioned** (distributed) among the States on the basis of their respective populations.
- Members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms.
- Although there have been recent movements to limit terms, there are no limits set on the number of terms a representative may serve.

Reapportionment

Article I of the Constitution directs Congress to **reapportion**—redistribute—the seats in the House after each decennial census.

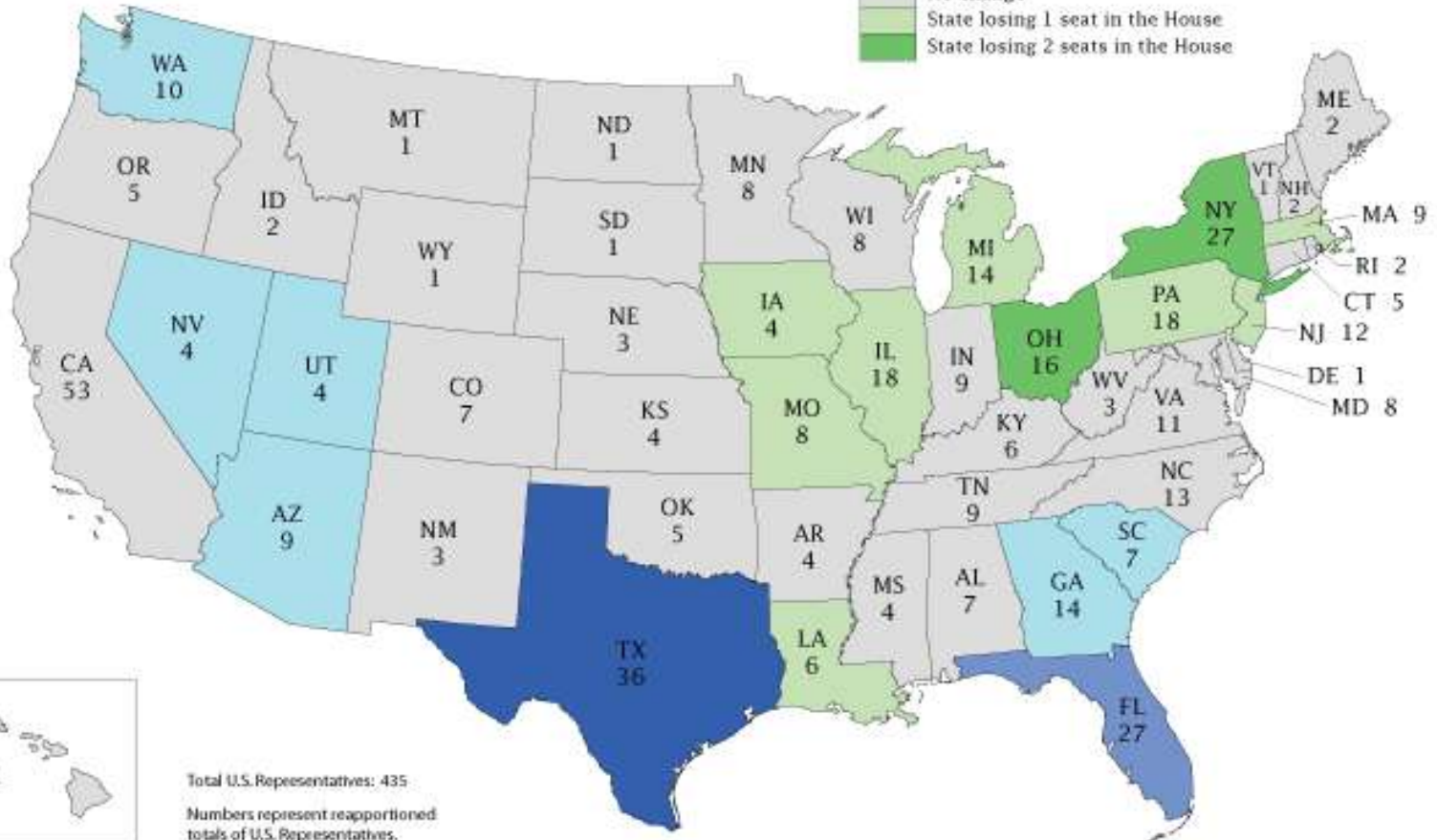
- As the United States grew in population, the number of representatives in the House also grew.
- The Reapportionment Act of 1929 set the “permanent” size of the House at 435 members, and provided for “automatic reapportionment.”

Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2010 Census

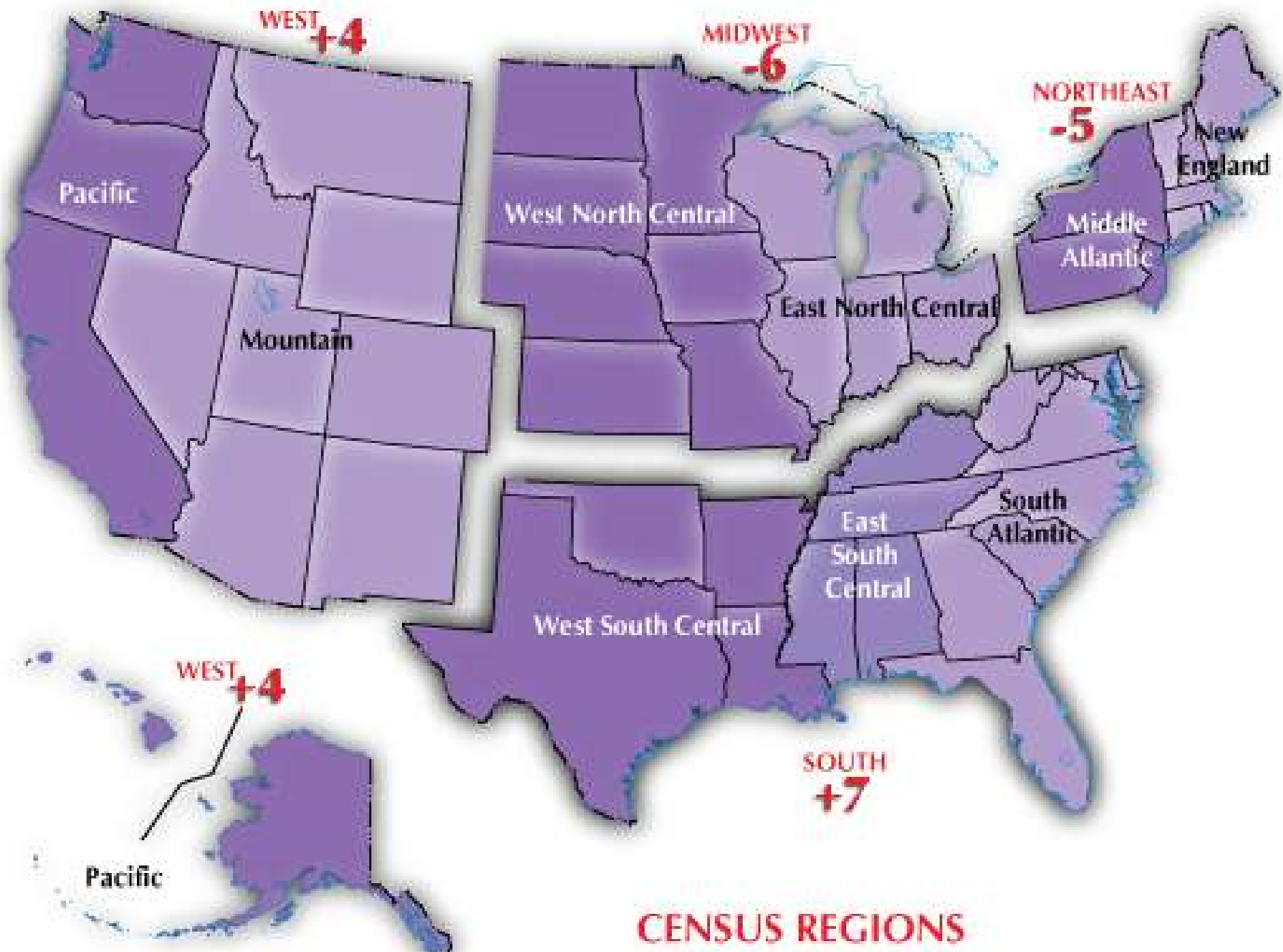


Change from 2000 to 2010

- State gaining 4 seats in the House
- State gaining 2 seats in the House
- State gaining 1 seat in the House
- No change
- State losing 1 seat in the House
- State losing 2 seats in the House



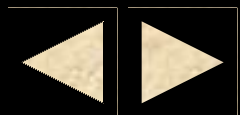
Total U.S. Representatives: 435
Numbers represent reapportioned totals of U.S. Representatives.



CENSUS REGIONS

Congressional Elections

- Congressional elections are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.
- **Off-year elections** are those congressional elections held between presidential elections.



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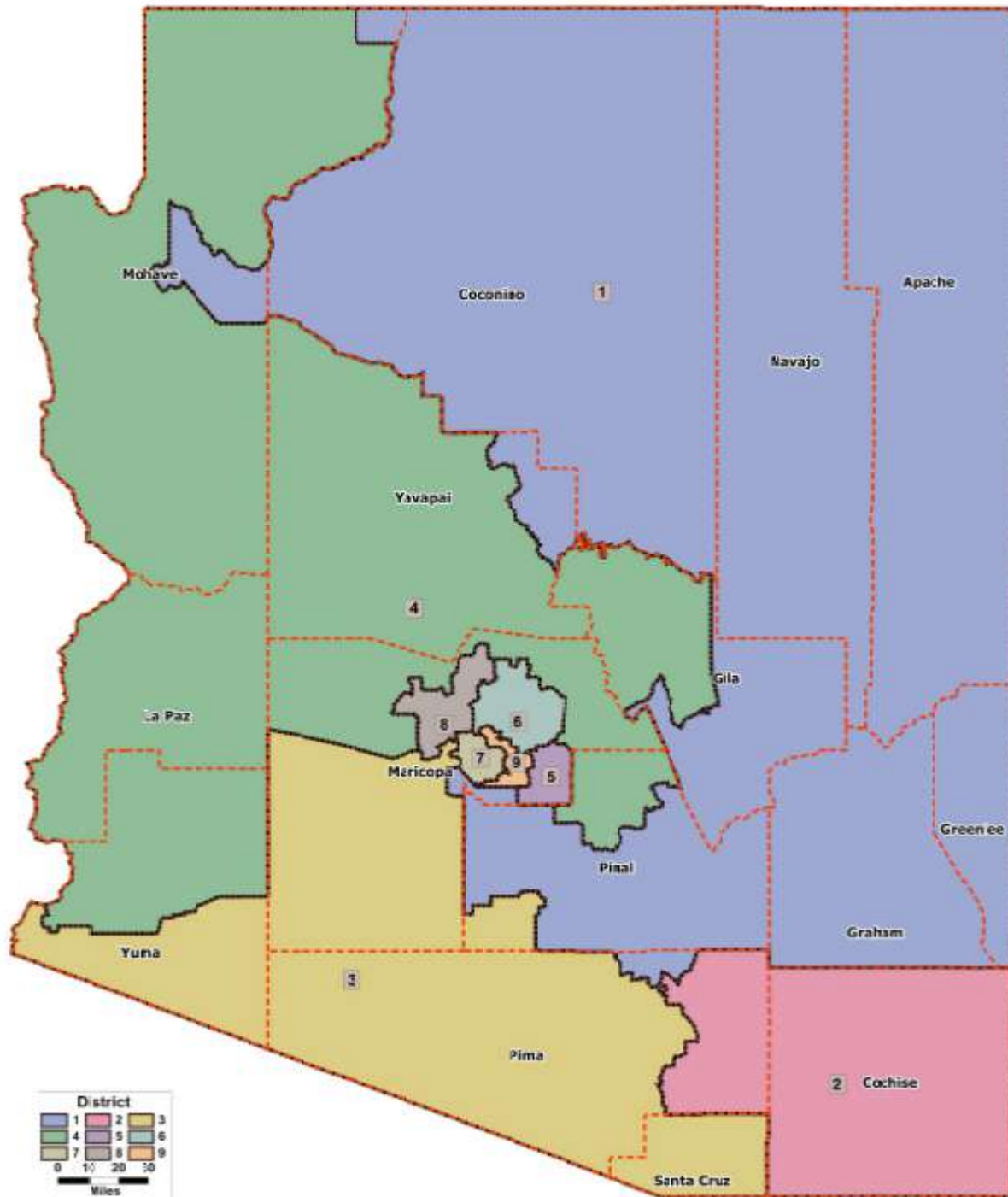


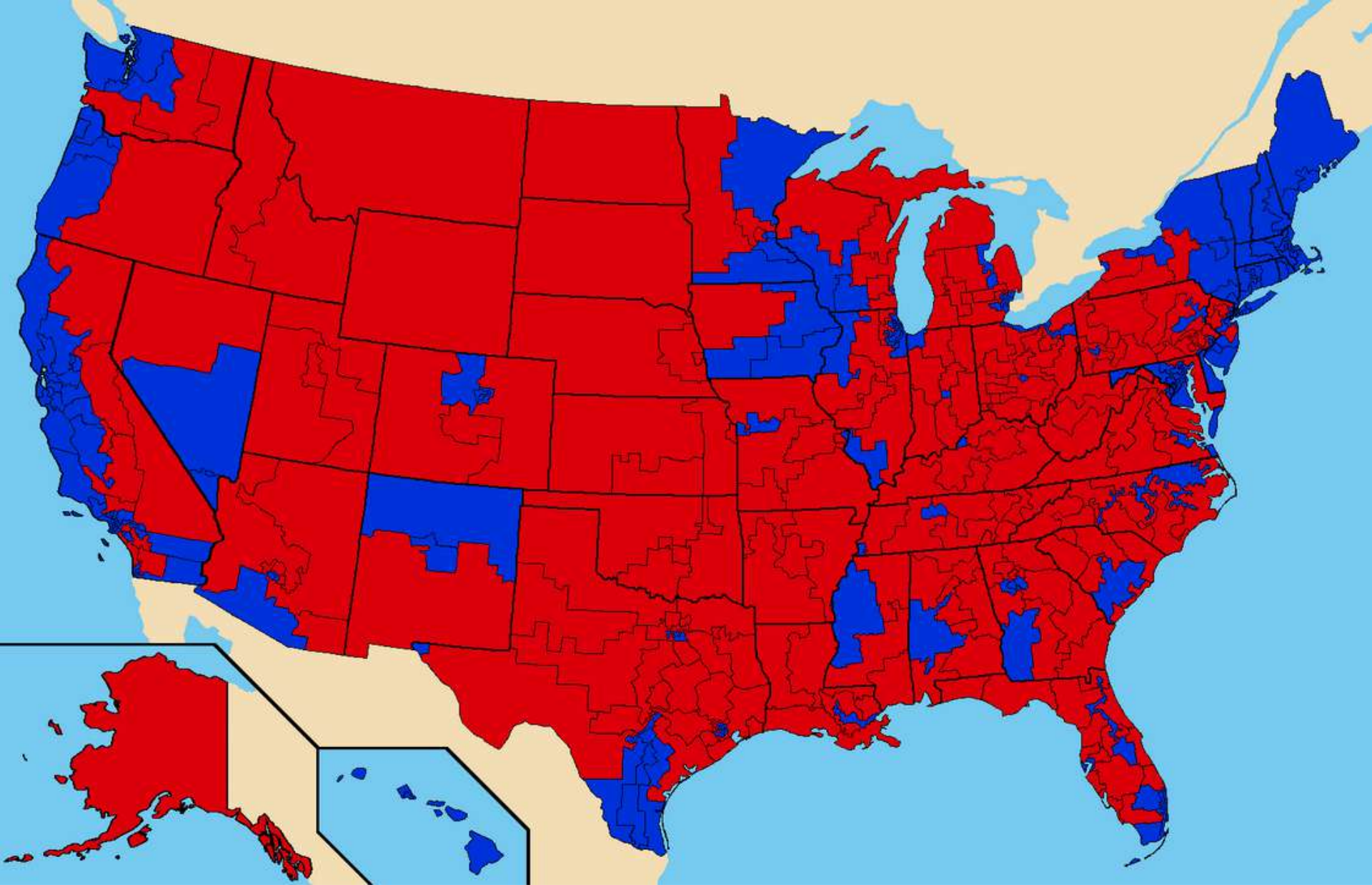
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Districts and Gerrymandering

- Under the **single-member district** arrangement, the voter's in each district elect one of the State's representatives.
- The general-ticket system, no longer in use, provided that all of a State's seats were filled **at-large**.
- Districts that have unusual shapes or even defy description have sometimes been **gerrymandered**.
- Gerrymandering refers to the act of drawing congressional districts to the advantage of the political party that controls the State legislature.





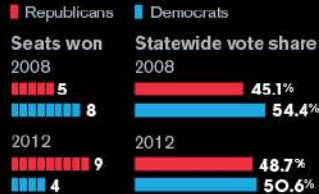
2012-2022 Congressional Districts

Redistricting Delivers North Carolina to Republicans

Republicans won both houses of the North Carolina state legislature in 2010, taking control of redistricting there for the first time in decades and helping them win more U.S. House seats in 2012 despite Democrats winning more votes statewide.

GRAPHIC: ALEX TRIBOU / BLOOMBERG VISUAL DATA

North Carolina's U.S. House races



North Carolina's U.S. House districts

2008 election results



2012 election results

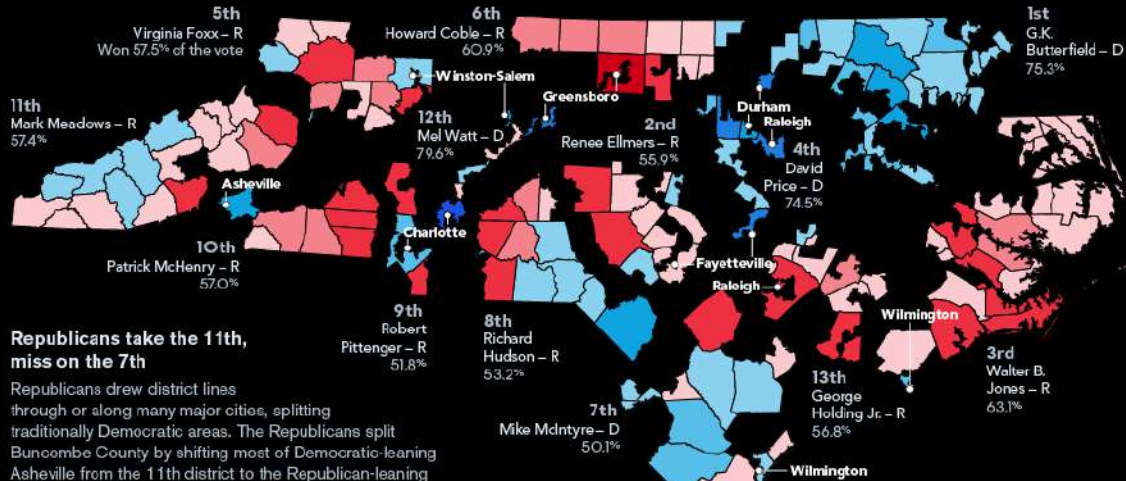
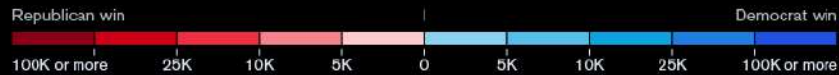


Republican Votes Spread Across Red Districts in 2012 as Democrats Are Packed Into Few

Democrats won three districts that include the state's largest urban areas with more than 70 percent of the vote in 2012. Many of the state's Democrats live in two majority-black districts – the 1st and the 12th. The 12th narrowly stretches along the Interstate 85 corridor to include heavily Democratic parts of Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Greensboro. Most of Durham was shifted to the 1st district, which also includes predominantly rural areas to the north and east. Republicans drew most of Raleigh and part of Durham into the 4th district, which stretches south to include most of Fayetteville.

Margin of victory in 2012 by number of votes

County-level results



Republicans take the 11th, miss on the 7th

Republicans drew district lines through or along many major cities, splitting traditionally Democratic areas. The Republicans split Buncombe County by shifting most of Democratic-leaning Asheville from the 11th district to the Republican-leaning 10th district. Republicans carried both. The strategy failed to secure the 7th district, after incumbent Democrat Mike McIntyre won by 654 votes.

Sources: Bloomberg reporting, North Carolina State Board of Elections, North Carolina General Assembly

Qualifications for House Members

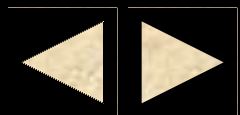
- The Constitution says that a member of the House
 - (1) must be at least 25 years of age,
 - (2) must have been a citizen of the United States for at least seven years, and
 - (3) must have been an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected.
- The realities of politics also require some informal qualifications, such as party identification, name familiarity, gender, ethnic characteristics, and political experience.

Section 2 Review

1. **Members of the House of Representatives are elected for**
 - (a) two-year terms.
 - (b) six-year terms.
 - (c) four-year terms.
 - (d) five-year terms.

2. **The Constitution requires a member of Congress to be**
 - (a) an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected.
 - (b) a property-owning male.
 - (c) a natural-born citizen.
 - (d) at least 40 years of age.

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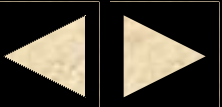
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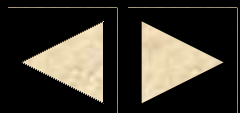
The Senate

- How does the size of the Senate differ from the size of the House?
- How have States elected senators in the past and present?
- How and why does a senator's term differ from a representative's term?
- What are the qualifications for serving in the Senate?



Size, Election, and Terms

- The Constitution says that the Senate “shall be composed of two Senators from each State.” Today’s Senate consists of 100 Senators.
- Originally, the Constitution provided that senators were chosen by the State legislatures.
- In 1912 the Seventeenth Amendment was passed and called for the popular election of senators.
- Senators serve for six-year terms.
- The Senate is a **continuous body**, meaning that all of its seats are never up for election at the same time.



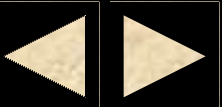
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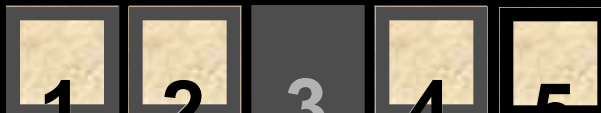
Chapter 10, Section 3

Qualifications for Senators

- The requirements for the U.S. Senate are higher than for the House of Representatives.
- The Constitution says that a Senator
 - (1) must be at least 30 years of age,
 - (2) must have been a citizen of the United States for at least nine years, and
 - (3) must be an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected.



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Section 3 Review

1. Senators are elected for

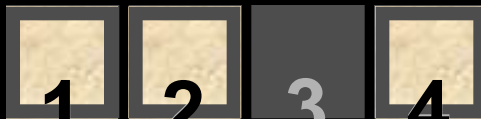
- (a) two-year terms.
- (b) eight-year terms.
- (c) four-year terms.
- (d) six-year terms.

2. The Senate is a continuous body, meaning that

- (a) Senators must continually reside in Washington, D.C.
- (b) all of its seats are always up for election every six years.
- (c) it never adjourns.
- (d) all of its seats are never up for election at one time.

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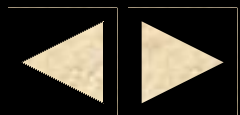
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The Members of Congress

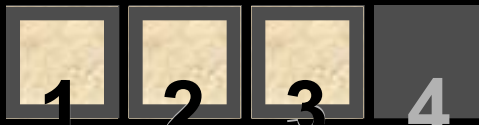
- What are the personal and political backgrounds of the current members of Congress?
- What are the duties of the job of serving in Congress?
- How are members of Congress compensated, and what privileges do they have?

Profile of the 113th Congress

- Roll Call website



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Representatives of the People

Senators and representatives are elected to represent people. As legislators, they have four voting options:

<p><i>Trustees</i> Trustees believe that each question they face must be decided on its merits.</p>	<p><i>Delegates</i> Delegates see themselves as agents of the people who elected them.</p>
<p><i>Partisans</i> Lawmakers who owe their first allegiance to their political party are partisans.</p>	<p><i>Politicos</i> Politicos attempt to combine the basic elements of the trustee, delegate, and partisan roles.</p>

Committee Membership and Public Servants

- As committee members, senators and representatives screen proposed laws before they are voted on.
- Another vital part of their committee work involves the **oversight function**.
- Oversight is the the process by which Congress, through its committees, checks to see that the agencies of the executive branch are working effectively.
- Members of the House and the Senate also act as servants of their constituents.
- Requests from voters vary widely, and members of Congress take heed to many of them. Ignoring their constituencies would not bode well in the next election.

Compensation

- Today, senators and representatives are paid a salary of \$141,300 a year. Certain members, such as the Speaker of the House and the Senate's president *pro tem*, are paid more.
- The **franking privilege** allows members of Congress to mail letters and other materials postage-free by substituting their facsimile signature (frank) for the postage.
- The Constitution says that Congress fixes its own "compensation." Therefore, the only real limits to congressional pay are the President's veto and fear of voter backlash against a pay increase.

Membership Privileges

- Members of Congress are immune from arrest for noncriminal offenses while engaged in congressional business.
- More importantly, the Speech and Debate Clause (Article I, Section 6, Clause 1) protects representatives and senators from suits for libel or slander arising from their official conduct.

Section 4 Review

1. Which of the following is a major role of members of Congress?
 - (a) law enforcement
 - (b) servant of their constituents
 - (c) serving in the military
 - (d) researching court cases

2. The franking privilege allows members of Congress to
 - (a) purchase as many hot dogs as necessary while in office.
 - (b) mail letters and other materials postage-free.
 - (c) vote on legislation.
 - (d) receive a pension upon retirement from Congress.

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