

MR. LIPMAN'S AP GOVERNMENT POWER POINT FOR CHAPTER 7



CONGRESS

THE BASICS



- Three way battle for power with Judiciary and Executive
- Direct election of Senators-17th Amendment
- Two houses in one branch
- Census / Apportionment / Redistricting
- All power stems from Article I – Section 8
- 435 members for house and 100 for Senate

In 2003, Texas Democrats left the state in order to hold off the necessary quorum needed by Republicans to do what?

- A. Take control of the legislature
- B. Pass an affirmative action bill
- C. End the death penalty in Texas
- D. Pass a Republican-sponsored redistricting bill
- E. Pass a bill requiring the state board of education to stay out of the process of textbook selection

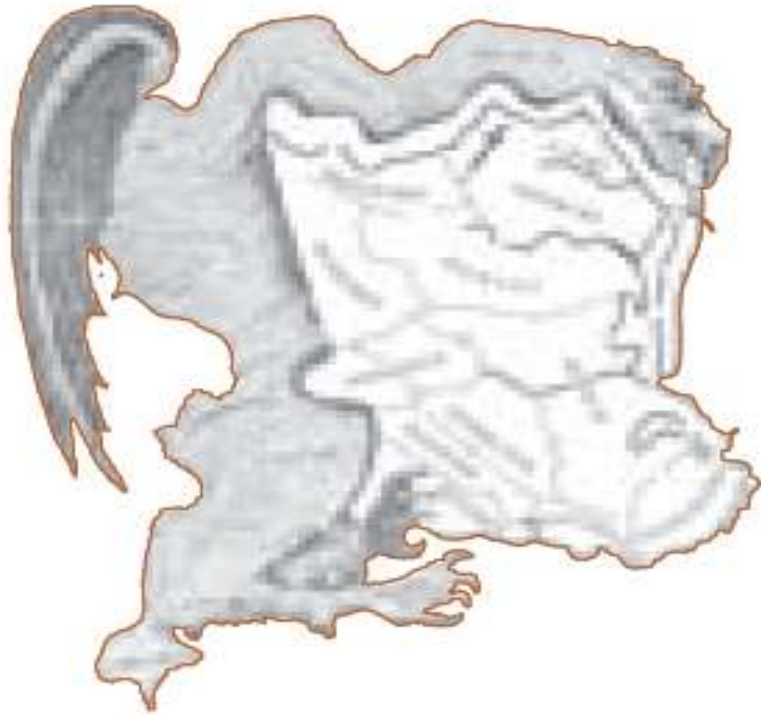
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Figure 7.2: What is gerrymandering?



The Original "Gerrymander" Cartoon, 1812



Illinois 17th District, 2010



A bill, or proposed law, cannot become law without the consent of what entity?

- A. The Senate
- B. The House
- C. Both the House and Senate
- D. The Bill Committee
- E. The people

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THE BASICS



- House members must be 25
- Senate members must be 30
- All members must live in their “districts”
- Impeachment process starts in house
- All revenue bills must start in house
- Speaker of house is 3rd in line
- Senate Pro-Tem is 4th in line (seniority)
- Vice-President only votes in case of a tie

Table 7.1: What are the powers of Congress?

The powers of Congress, found in Article I, section 8, of the Constitution, include the powers to:

- Lay and collect taxes and duties.
 - Borrow money.
 - Regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the states.
 - Establish rules for naturalization (the process of becoming a citizen) and bankruptcy.
 - Coin money, set its value, and fix the standard of weights and measures.
 - Punish counterfeiting.
 - Establish a post office and post roads.
 - Issue patents and copyrights.
 - Define and punish piracies, felonies on the high seas, and crimes against the law of nations.
 - Create courts inferior to (below) the U.S. Supreme Court.
 - Declare war.
 - Raise and support an army and navy and make rules for their governance.
 - Provide for a militia (reserving to the states the right to appoint militia officers and to train militias under congressional rules).
 - Exercise legislative powers over the seat of government (the District of Columbia) and over places purchased to be federal facilities (forts, arsenals, dockyards, and “other needful buildings”).
 - “Make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States.” (Note: This “necessary and proper,” or “elastic,” clause has been interpreted expansively by the Supreme Court, as explained in chapter 2 and in the Annotated Constitution.)
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TYPES OF COMMITTEES



- Standing Committees (permanent)
- Joint Committees (house and senate)
- Conference Committees (bill reconciliation)
- Select/Special Committees (temporary)

Bills can be forced out of a House committee by what?

- A. A majority vote
- B. A two-thirds vote
- C. A chairperson
- D. A discharge petition
- E. A majority leader

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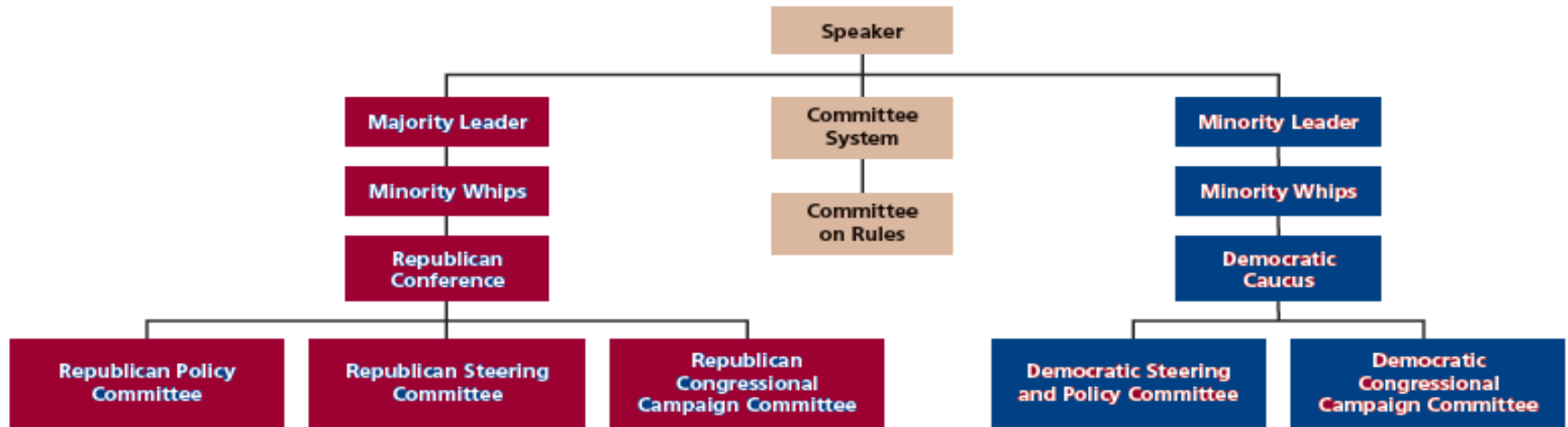
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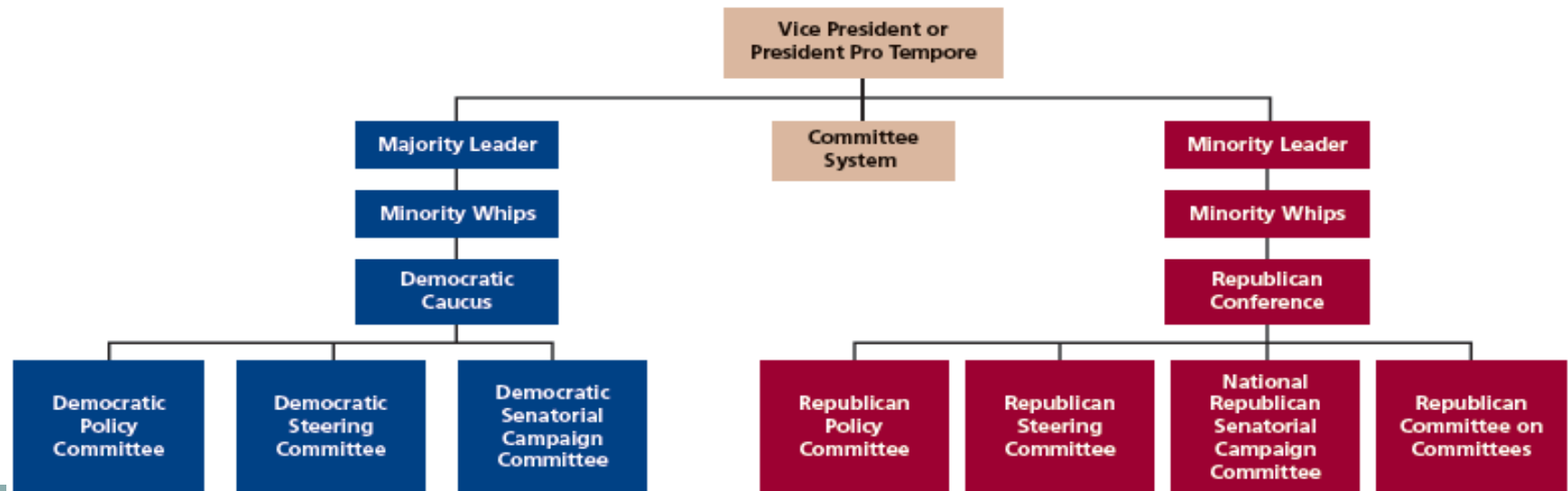
- *Oversight Committees*: Job is to oversee the executive agencies that are involved in regulation to insure that they are carrying out the intent of the law that created them.
- *Congressional Review*: allows congress to nullify an agency regulation within 60 days of its becoming effective.

Figure 7.3: How are the House of Representatives and the Senate organized?

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SENATE



COMMITTEES CONTINUED



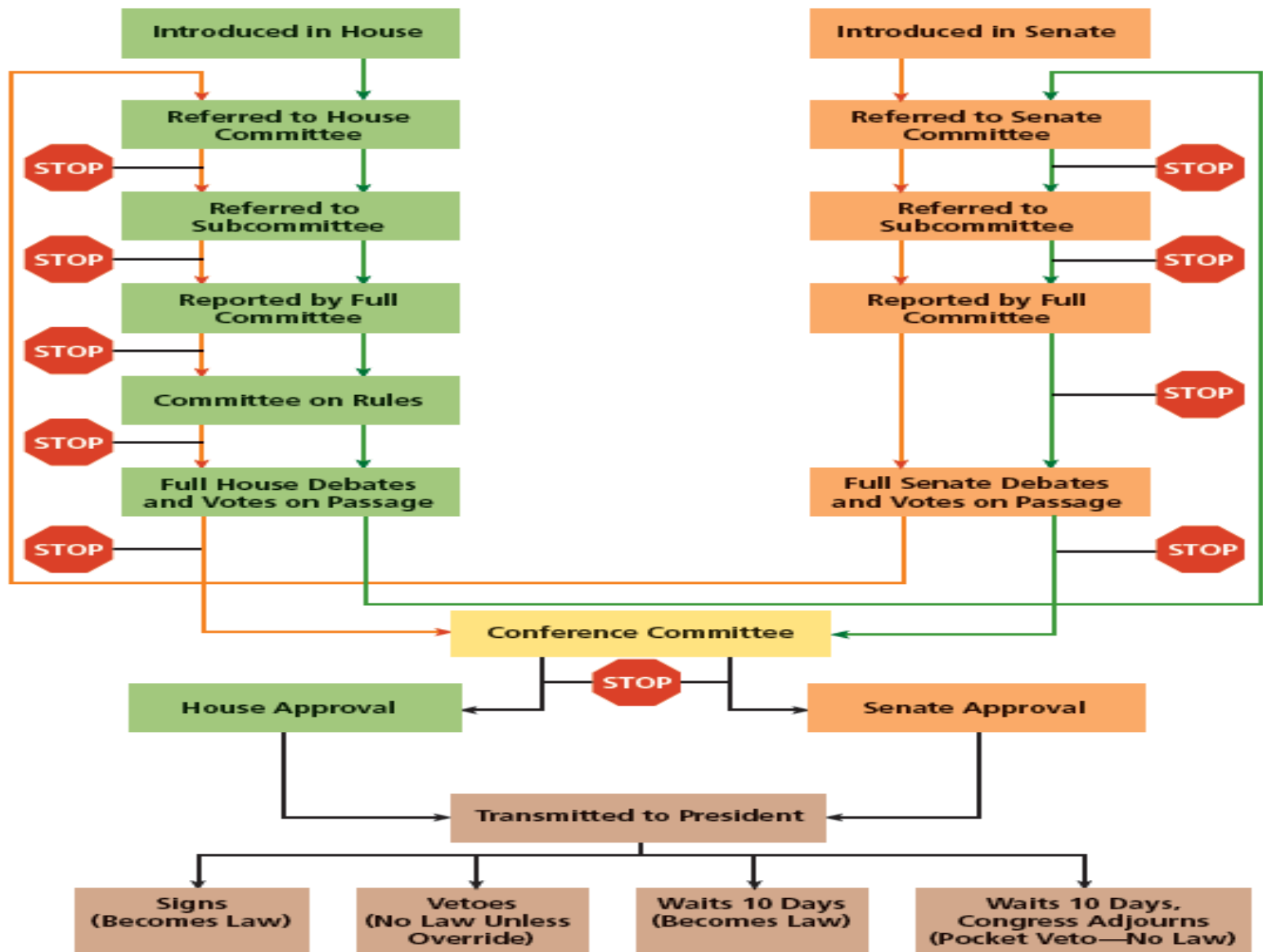
- House “rules” committee is key and members are selected by “Speaker”.
- Majority and Minority leaders pick committee appointments except for rules committee
- Committee chair now limited to six years in house but no limit in Senate

Table 7.5: What were the committees of the 111th Congress?

Standing Committees		
House		Senate
Agriculture Appropriations Armed Services Budget Education & Labor Energy & Commerce Financial Services Foreign Affairs Homeland Security House Administration Judiciary <i>Commercial & Administrative Law</i> <i>The Constitution, Civil Rights, & Civil Liberties</i> <i>Courts & Competition Policy</i> <i>Crime, Terrorism, & Homeland Security</i> <i>Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, & International Law</i> <i>Task Force on Antitrust</i> Natural Resources Oversight & Government Reform Rules Science & Technology Small Business Standards of Official Conduct Transportation & Infrastructure Veterans Affairs Ways & Means		Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Appropriations Armed Services Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs Budget Commerce, Science, & Transportation Energy & Natural Resources Environment & Public Works Finance Foreign Relations Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Indian Affairs Judiciary <i>Administrative Oversight & the Courts</i> <i>Antitrust, Competition Policy, & Consumer Rights</i> <i>The Constitution</i> <i>Crime & Drugs</i> <i>Human Rights & the Law</i> <i>Immigration, Refugees, & Border Security</i> <i>Terrorism, Technology, & Homeland Security</i> Rules & Administration Small Business & Entrepreneurship Veterans Affairs
Select, Special, and Other Committees		
House	Senate	Joint Committees
Permanent Select Intelligence Select Committee on Energy Independence & Global Warming	Select Ethics Select Intelligence Special Aging	Economics Taxation Library of Congress Printing

Note: The subcommittees of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees during the 111th Congress are listed in italics.

How does a bill become a law?



JOB OF THE ELECTED

- Pork (bill creating jobs or money for district)
- Logrolling (rep. votes in favor of colleague bill in exchange for return favor)
- Serving two distinct groups:
 - Party leaders, colleagues and lobbyists
 - 🗳️ Constituents (voters back home)
 - 1) **Trustee**: rep who votes best judgment
 - 2) **Delegate**: votes the way constituents want
 - 3) **Politico**: votes a combination of 1 and 2

Congressional Support Agencies



- 1. Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
 - 2. Congressional Research Service (CRS)
 - 3. General Accountability Office (GAO)
-
- More than 9000 bills are introduced each year but less than 10% of them will become law

THE SENATE



- Hold : Allows a senator to be notified before action is taken on a bill

Filibuster: Unlimited debate so nothing else can be taken up

Cloture vote: 60 members can stop a filibuster

THE SENATE CON'T



- Must approve all high level executive appointments by a majority vote
- Must approve all federal judges by a majority vote
- Must approve all foreign treaties by a 2/3 vote
- Senatorial Courtesy: Senator gets to select judge to fill a seat in his/her state when vacancy occurs (if President goes along with it)

DECLARING WAR



- Only Congress can declare war
- War Powers Act passed to limit President's power to commit forces in foreign lands without Congressional approval
- Congress appropriates all funds and thus can also stop armed forces on foreign soil by not approving funds (not easy to do)

The War Powers Act of 1973 has been considered by many to be what?

- A. Quite powerful
- B. A success
- C. Largely ineffective
- D. Unconstitutional
- E. Both C and D

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PRESIDENTS POWER OVER A BILL



- 1. Sign it
- 2. Veto it
- 3. Do nothing and after 10 days it becomes law if Congress is still in session
- 4. Pocket Veto: Do nothing and Congress adjourns before 10 days elapse it will become a veto

The Tenure of Office Act was passed to do what?

- A. Ensure tenure of members of Congress
- B. Prevent Franklin D. Roosevelt from removing Supreme Court justices he disagreed with
- C. Prevent President Andrew Johnson from removing Lincoln cabinet appointees
- D. Prevent President Bill Clinton from firing insubordinate bureaucrats
- E. Ensure that Supreme Court justices would have their positions for life

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