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Unit 4 Legislative Branch

Slide 1- The _____ Branch

Slide 2- Legislative Branch: Inception

- The Virginia Plan and the _____ Plan
- The “Great Compromise”
- Bicameral legislature: the House of Representatives and the _____
- House representation _____ on population
- Senate—each state allowed two votes
- Length of _____ for representatives, senators
 - When delegates to the Constitutional Convention convened in Philadelphia in May of 1787, their _____ goal was to amend the Articles of Confederation, a loose plan of government devised by Richard Henry Lee in 1777 to form a “firm league of friendship” among _____ states.
 - Although they were only supposed to fix the Articles’ _____, the delegates soon adopted a motion by Edmund _____ of Virginia to create an entirely new government.
 - One of the first _____ facing the delegates was that of representation.
 - James Madison proposed what became known as the “Virginia Plan,” which gave more _____ to the large states by providing them with more delegates to the Congress.
 - Voters would be given some _____ power in as much as they would elect the _____ house.
 - The upper house, however, would be _____ by the lower house.
 - The alternative was the “New Jersey Plan,” _____ by delegate William Paterson.



- In this plan, small states' interests would be _____ by a unicameral, or one-house legislature, with each state having an equal number of votes.
- An impasse developed over the issue of representation, and it seemed for a while that the delegates wouldn't be able to come to an _____.
- Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman offered a _____ to break the deadlock.
- The so-called "Great Compromise" included a bicameral (two-house) legislature _____ of a "House of Representatives" and a "Senate."
- Sherman's plan would protect the rights of both large and small states: representation in the House would be based on _____ (which favored the larger states), and each state would have two representatives in the Senate (which favored the smaller states).
- In addition, by allowing only a two-year term for House members in comparison to a _____ - year term for Senators, the framers afforded some measure of "aristocracy" for members of the "_____ house."

Slide 3- The First Congress

- The _____ Congress met in New York City in 1789
 - On March 4, 1789, Congress met for the first time in New York City in the _____ Hall on Wall Street.
 - In December of 1790 they moved to _____, and on November 17, 1800 they made their final move to a permanent spot in Washington, D.C.

Slide 4- The House of Representatives

- Seats are _____ based on population
- Reapportionment takes place every _____ years
- Gerrymandering
 - How many seats an individual state has in the _____ house of the legislature, the House of Representatives, is based directly on that state's population _____ to the other states in the Union.



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- Every ten years, after a new _____ has been taken, a process known as reapportionment occurs: to reflect changing populations, the _____ of representatives an individual state has may change as well.
- No matter how small its population, every state is guaranteed at _____ one representative.
- There are _____ members of the House of Representatives.
- Each House member represents a _____ district in his or her home state.
- Though in theory districts should follow lines of _____ and appear as simple geometric shapes on a political map, some districts have odd, twisted, or contorted _____ that seem to defy logic.
- This occurs because district lines are often redrawn to _____ the political party in power, a practice known as gerrymandering.
- The term was coined in _____, when painter Gilbert Stuart noticed that Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry's district, drawn by members of his party, resembled a salamander.
- He then attached claws, wings, and a head to the creature and gave birth to the new phrase. Gerrymandering sometimes puts at risk the votes of party _____ within each district.

Slide 5- Qualifications for House Membership

- Must be at least _____ years old
- Must live in the state he or she _____
- Must have been a U.S. _____ for at least seven years
- Members of the House of Representatives must be at least 25 years old, must live in the state he or she represents (some states have additional requirements that representatives also live within the _____ they represent), and must have been a U.S. citizen for at least seven years.



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Slide 6- House Officers

- _____ of the House
- Majority _____ Leader
- _____ Whip
- _____ Floor Leader
- Minority _____
 - Representatives choose _____ from among their ranks to direct and oversee House functions and legislative agenda.
 - Since the U.S. has a two-party system, the House is _____ along party lines.
 - The most _____ officer is the Speaker of the House.
 - Chosen by floor vote, the speaker comes from the majority _____ and presides over the House's proceedings.
 - Each party also has a floor leader, who works to push his or her party's legislative _____ and keep party members voting in line with that agenda, and a whip, who serves as an _____ to the floor leader.
 - The term "whip" comes from fox _____, where a "whipper-in" was a hunter's assistant in charge of keeping the hounds together in a pack.

Slide 7- House Committees

House Committees

Agriculture International Relations Appropriations Armed Services The Budget
Education and the Work Force Energy and Commerce Financial Services Government Reform
Homeland Security House Administration International Relations The Judiciary Resources
Rules Science Small Business Standards of Official Conduct Transportation and Infrastructure
Veterans Affairs Ways and Means

- Standing committees: permanent _____ that debate proposed bills



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- Select committees: temporary panels created to address a _____ issue or situation

- Committee _____

- Standing committees in the House of Representatives are permanent committees that _____ proposed bills then make recommendations to the House as a whole.
- The first standing committee was the Committee on Ways and Means, created in _____.
- In addition, the House also sometimes calls select committees, which are temporary _____ created to address a specific issue or situation.
- House committees cover a _____ of topics, as seen in the chart on this slide.
- Committee chairmen are _____ of the majority party who have the most seniority (i.e., who have served the longest in the House).
- Chairmen exercise a significant amount of power, _____ when the committee will meet, which bills the committee will consider, how a bill gets _____ to the entire House, and more.

Slide 8- The Senate

- In the Senate, representation is _____: each state has two senators. Senators were originally elected by state legislatures until the passage of the _____ Amendment in 1913.
- The amendment gave voters the right to _____ elect senators, and also allowed a governor to appoint a replacement senator should a sudden vacancy occur.

Slide 9- The Senate: Facts

- A “_____ body”
- One-third of the Senate comes up for reelection every _____ years
- Senators can run for reelection as _____ as they desire
 - The Senate is a “continuous body,” which means that unlike the House it does not reorganize from time to time due to changes in _____.



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- In addition, to minimize upheaval _____ for senators are structured so that only one-third of the Senate comes up for reelection every two years.
- The framers of the Constitution set up the Senate as a continuous body because they envisioned it as the _____ house of the legislature, with more responsibilities in the checks and balances _____.
- Senators can run for reelection as often as they desire.

Slide 10- Qualifications for Senate Membership

- Must be at least _____ years old
- Must live in the state he or she _____
- Must have been a U.S. _____ for at least nine years
 - Members of the Senate must be at least 30 years old, must live in the state he or she represents, and must have been a U.S. citizen for at least _____ years.

Slide 11- Senate Officers

- President of the Senate
- President Pro _____
- _____ Floor Leader
- Majority Whip
- Minority Floor Leader
- _____ Whip
 - Unlike in the House, Senate members do not choose their _____ officer.
 - Instead, the Constitution assigns the role of _____ of the Senate to the Vice-President of the United States.
 - However, unlike the House's presiding officer (the speaker of the House), the Senate's presiding officer is not a member of the Senate and consequently has little _____



power over Senate proceedings. In fact, the only time the Vice President can even participate in a Senate vote is to break a tie.

- The Senate also has a _____ presiding officer, known as the president *pro tempore*.
- This position usually goes to the senator in the majority party who has the most _____.
- The post of Senate president *pro tempore* is _____ mainly because it falls third in the line of presidential succession, after the Vice-President and the speaker of the House.
- As in the House, each party in the Senate also has a floor _____ and whip.
- In the Senate, the majority leader—rather than the Vice-President or the president *pro tempore*—_____ the most power and sets the body's legislative agenda.
- President of the Senate—Is the Vice President of the _____ States
- President Pro Tempore—Is elected by the majority party and is usually the _____ with the most years seniority.

Slide 12- Senate Committees

Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Appropriations Armed Services Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Budget Committee, Science and Transportation Energy and Natural Resources
Environment and Public Works Finance Foreign Relations Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Homeland Security and Government Affairs Judiciary Rules Administration Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship Veteran Affairs

- Like the House, the Senate also has a number of _____ committees.
- Senate committee chairmen also come from the majority party and are _____ based on seniority.



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Slide 13- Joint Committees and Conference Committees

- **Joint committees:** Deal with issues of _____ to both houses of Congress
- **Conference committees:** Created to reach a _____ on the wording of a bill that has passed both the House and the Senate

- Joint committees contain both Representatives and Senators and deal with matters of _____ or concern for both houses of Congress.
- Many joint committees are _____ and deal with pressing issues that need to be settled in the near future.
- Permanent joint committees deal with ongoing issues; examples include the Joint Economic Committee, the Joint committee on the _____ of Congress, the Joint Committee on Printing committee and the Joint Committee on _____.
- Sometimes the House and the Senate pass the same _____, but with different wording.
- Conference committees are then created to come up with a compromise _____ of the bill.
- Members of conference committees are usually are the most _____ members of both houses and also tend to have seniority.

Slide 14- Congressional Bills

- Bills are named according to whether they _____ in the House (HR), the Senate (SR), or the White House (WHR).
- They then _____ a number.
 - Bills introduced in the House are given a _____ beginning with HR, which stands for “House Resolution.”
 - All revenue-raising or _____ bills must originate in the House of Representatives.
 - Bills introduced in the Senate are given a number beginning with SR, which stands for “Senate _____.”



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- Bills sent to Congress from the _____ are given a number beginning with WHR, which stands for “White House Resolution.”

Slide 15- How a Bill Becomes a Law: Introduction to Committee

- The bill is _____ in one house at a time, and in the same manner regardless of whether it’s a Senate bill or a House bill.
- First, the bill is read aloud and given a number; next, the _____ or President sends it to the appropriate committee.
- The committees then sends the bill to the _____ subcommittee, which investigates it, debates it, and sends it _____ to the main committee with recommendations.
- The _____ can either:
- Report the bill favorably with a “do pass” _____
- “Pigeonhole” the bill by _____ to report it; this essentially spells the end of the bill
- Recommend an _____ form of the bill
- Give the bill an _____ recommendation

Slide 16- How a Bill Becomes a Law: Committee to Floor Debate

- _____
- Rules Committee
- Debate
- House vs. Senate
- _____
- cloture
- If the committee _____ the bill, it then gets scheduled on a calendar.



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- In the House, the Rules Committee must then give the bill a “rule,” which means _____ it for floor debate and setting up a time for that debate. In the Senate, the majority leader decides when the bill will come to the floor for debate.
- In both the House and the Senate, the majority and minority floor leaders meet in _____ to decide how much time to spend debating the bill.
- The House and the Senate have very different _____ regarding how bills get debated.
- The House restricts any representative from holding the floor in a debate for over _____ hour without unanimous consent.
- Also, if someone holding floor begins to _____ at length a topic other than the bill under consideration, the speaker of the House has the power to force them to give up the floor.
- In the Senate, however, members can speak for as long as they want on any _____ they choose.
- Sometimes senators abuse this privilege, attempting to “talk a bill to death” by _____ to give up the floor to their opposition.
- This tactic is known as a “filibuster,” a term which became _____ in the 1850s and comes from the Dutch word meaning “pirate.”
- In order to break a filibuster, at least _____ senators must vote to invoke cloture, a rule established in 1917 which _____ each senator’s debate time.

Slide 17- How a Bill Becomes a Law: Voting

- _____

Types of votes

- Voice vote

- _____ vote

- Roll-call vote

- _____ voting (House only)



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- The House requires a quorum for a vote to take place; this means that a majority of the full House _____ must be present.
- To determine if enough members are present, the House clerk may be _____ to undertake a “quorum call.”
- Congressional voting can take place in _____ different ways:
- Voice vote—Representatives respond with “aye” or “no” when their _____ is called.
- This is the most _____ type of vote.
- Standing vote—Representatives stand up and are _____.
- Roll-call vote—The roll-call vote may be requested if one-fifth of a quorum is _____.
- Used to determine which members are present and whether each is _____ yes or no.
- Electronic Voting— In electronic voting, (used only in the House, mostly for quorum calls), representatives _____ their votes by using an electronic card to access one of several _____ stations on the House floor.
- They then press one of three _____: “yea,” “nay,” or “Present” (This last button is for quorum calls).

Slide 18- How a Bill Becomes a Law: From Passage to the President

- Conference _____
- House and Senate vote again
- 1. _____ cannot be made
- 2. Majority vote needed for _____
- Sent to _____



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- If the House and the Senate have passed different _____ of a bill, a conference committee is formed to iron out the differences and come to an acceptable compromise on the _____ of the bill.
- The bill then goes back to the House and the Senate for a vote; no _____ changes can be made at this time.
- If the bill passes by _____ vote, then:
- The speaker of the House _____ it
- The president of the _____ signs it
- The bill gets sent to the President of the United States for his _____

Slide 19- How a Bill Becomes a Law: The President

The President's Options

- Sign it

- _____ it

- Pocket veto

- _____ it

- Overriding a veto

- When presented with a bill passed by _____, the president can do one of four things:
- He can sign it, thus making it _____.
- He can _____ it, an act known as a “veto.”
- A veto prevents the measure from becoming law and sends it back to Congress for possible _____.
- He can _____ a “pocket veto.”
- This can only occur at the end of a congressional _____.
- A pocket veto situation happens like this: Congress _____ a bill to the White House for the president to sign but then adjourns within _____ days of doing so.



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- If the _____ doesn't either sign or veto the bill, it dies.
- He can choose not to sign it or veto it, in which case it _____ law within ten days.
- If the president vetoes a bill, senators and representatives can then _____ the measure and send it back to the president or _____ the veto by a two-thirds majority vote in each house.

Slide 20- Expressed Powers of Congress

- Power to _____

- Power to _____ money

- Commerce _____

- _____ power

- Bankruptcy power

- _____ powers

- The following powers of Congress are _____ mentioned in the Constitution:
- Power to tax—Congress can tax the people in order to _____ money to “pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and _____ Welfare of the United States” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 1).
- However, Congress cannot impose taxes that _____ a private individual, group, or corporation; it also cannot tax exports.
- Power to borrow money—Congress can “borrow Money on the _____ of the United States” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 2).
- The Constitution does not place limits on the _____ Congress can borrow or on the purposes for which the money is borrowed.
- Commerce power—Congress has the authority to _____ both foreign and interstate trade.



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- Currency power—Congress can “_____ Money [and] regulate the value thereof” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 5).
- This means it can issue money, determine its _____, and declare it to be legal tender.
- Bankruptcy power—Congress can “establish...uniform Laws on the _____ of Bankruptcies throughout the United States (Article I, Section 8, Clause 4).
- War powers—Only Congress can _____ war.
- Congress also has the power to “raise and _____ Armies,” to “provide and maintain a Navy,” to regulate the armed forces, to call out “the Militia” (today, the national Guard), and to “provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining” the _____ Guard.

Slide 21- Other Expressed Powers

- Naturalization

- _____ power

- Copyright and _____ power

- Weights and _____ power

- _____ power

- Judicial power

- Naturalization—Congress makes the laws under which _____ can become U.S. citizens.
- Postal power—Congress establishes post _____ and post roads.
- Copyright and patent power—Congress issues copyrights to _____ and patents to inventors.
- Weights and measures power—Congress sets the standards for _____ and measures in the United States.



- Territorial power—Congress _____ U.S. territories (such as Puerto Rico and Guam) and other federal properties (such as the District of Columbia, national parks, military installations, etc.).
- Judicial power—Congress can create federal courts and define and set _____ for federal crimes.

Slide 22- Implied Powers

- Article I: “necessary and _____”
- The “_____ Clause”
- Strict vs. loose _____
- Hamilton vs. Jefferson
 - Article I of the Constitution states that Congress can make any laws that are “_____ and proper” for the government to function effectively.
 - This part of the Constitution is often _____ to as the “Elastic Clause” because it has been “stretched” to cover a wide variety of situations.
 - The Elastic Clause often has become a bone of _____ between those who advocate a strict interpretation of the Constitution and those who _____ a loose interpretation.
 - Strict constructionists believe that the _____ powers inherent in the Elastic Clause should only be used when absolutely necessary; loose constructionists believe that implied powers can be _____ for anything that advances the general welfare of the country.
 - Battles over implied powers _____ almost from the day the Constitution was ratified.
 - The most notable clash came in the 1790s between Secretary of the Treasury Alexander _____ and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson.



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- The two men disagreed on Hamilton's plan to create a national _____, which he hoped would provide for a _____ currency, stabilize the nation's weak economy, and encourage economic growth and development.
- While Hamilton, a loose constructionist, believed the national bank was constitutional under the Elastic Clause, Jefferson held a _____ interpretation of the clause and asserted that the only way to create a national bank was by constitutional _____.
- Hamilton _____, and the First Bank of the United States was created.

Slide 23- Non-Legislative Powers

- _____ Power

- Electoral Power

- Executive Powers

- _____ Power

- Investigatory Power—Congress can investigate any matter _____ to its legislative powers.
- Electoral Power—If a presidential election ends with no _____ having a majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives will _____ the president from among the top three vote-getters.
- Executive Power—The Senate must _____ all major appointments made and treaties signed by the president.
- Impeachment Power—The House of Representatives has the power to impeach (accuse and bring charges) against the president, vice-president, and all “_____ officers” of the U.S. government.
- The Senate actually tries the cases of _____ being impeached.