

Apologies in advance if the following information is a bit basic. But just in case you need your memory jogged since your last civics class in the 7th grade, we thought we'd provide a quick primer on the fundamentals of how our governmental system works.

THE THREE BRANCHES



EXECUTIVE BRANCH
 (carries out laws)

The executive branch consists of the President, his or her advisors and various departments and agencies. The President is responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws written by Congress and, to that end, appoints the heads of the federal agencies, including the Cabinet.



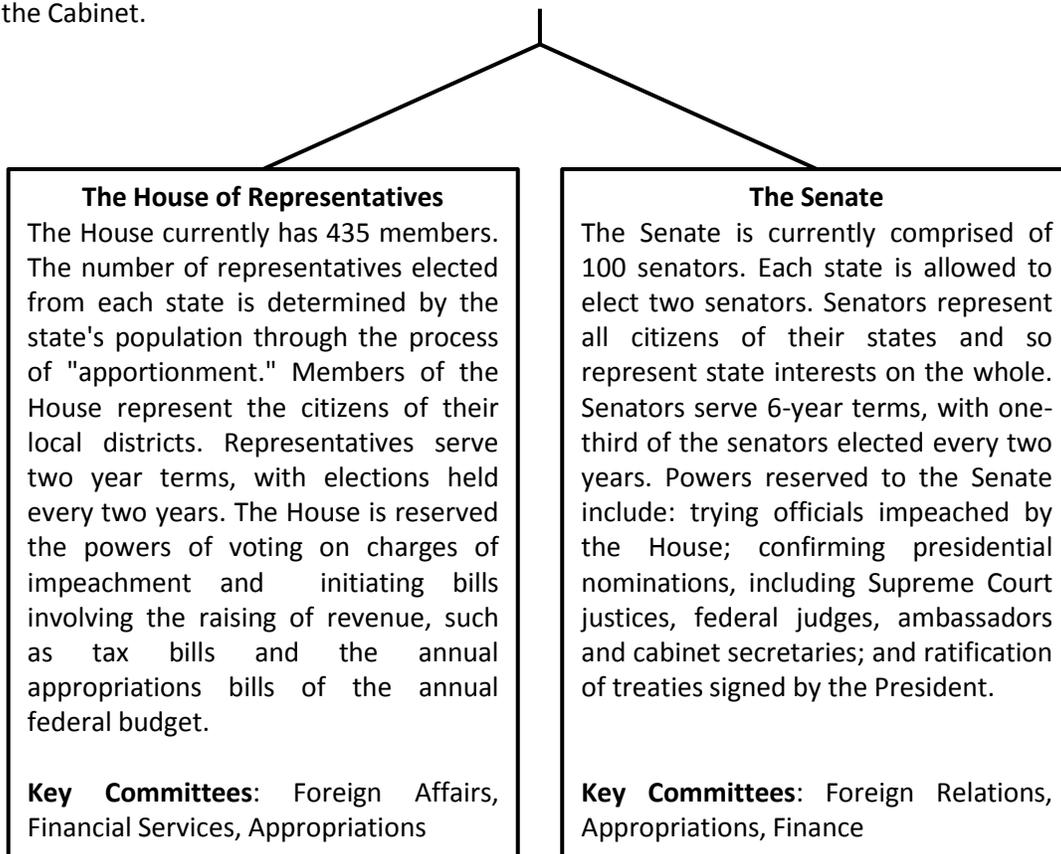
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
 (makes laws)

The legislative branch is made up of the House and Senate, known collectively as the Congress. Among other powers, the legislative branch makes all laws, declares war, regulates interstate and foreign commerce and controls taxing and spending policies.



JUDICIAL BRANCH
 (evaluates laws)

The judicial branch consists of the US Supreme Court and the Federal Judicial Center. The Federal Judicial Center is the education and research agency for the federal courts. The Supreme Court settles disputes over the law and its interpretations.



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

