



Legislative Branch



Congressional Membership

The National Legislature

Congress's job is to make laws.

The Constitution states that Congress must be bicameral.

The House of Representatives and Senate make up the Congress.

Lower House

Upper House

The House of Representatives members are determined by population.

The Senate has two members from each state.



Terms and Sessions of Congress

Congress's term, or length of service, lasts two years.

Each term begins in the beginning January in odd numbered years.

On January 3rd, 2019, the 116th Congress begins; it will end late in the year 2020.

Work day: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Working time: Noon to 5 – 6 o'clock.

Recess = temporary break

Qualifications to Become a Member of Congress

Qualification	House of Representatives	Senate
Age:	At least 25	At least 30
Citizenship:	At least 7 years	At least 9 years
Residency:	Must be inhabitant of the state (by custom, inhabit the district)	Must be inhabitant of the state

Terms and Sessions of Congress

Each term has two sessions. A session lasts one year.

Congress can adjourn when it finishes its business.

Session - 2 sessions Jan 3rd – Dec., Jan – (July to Dec)

Special Session = Outside of regular hours

The President can call Congress into a special session to deal with an urgent matter.

Joint Session = Both House and Senate

“State of the Union” Called by president

17TH AMENDMENT

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

- (1913)

Determining Representatives in the House

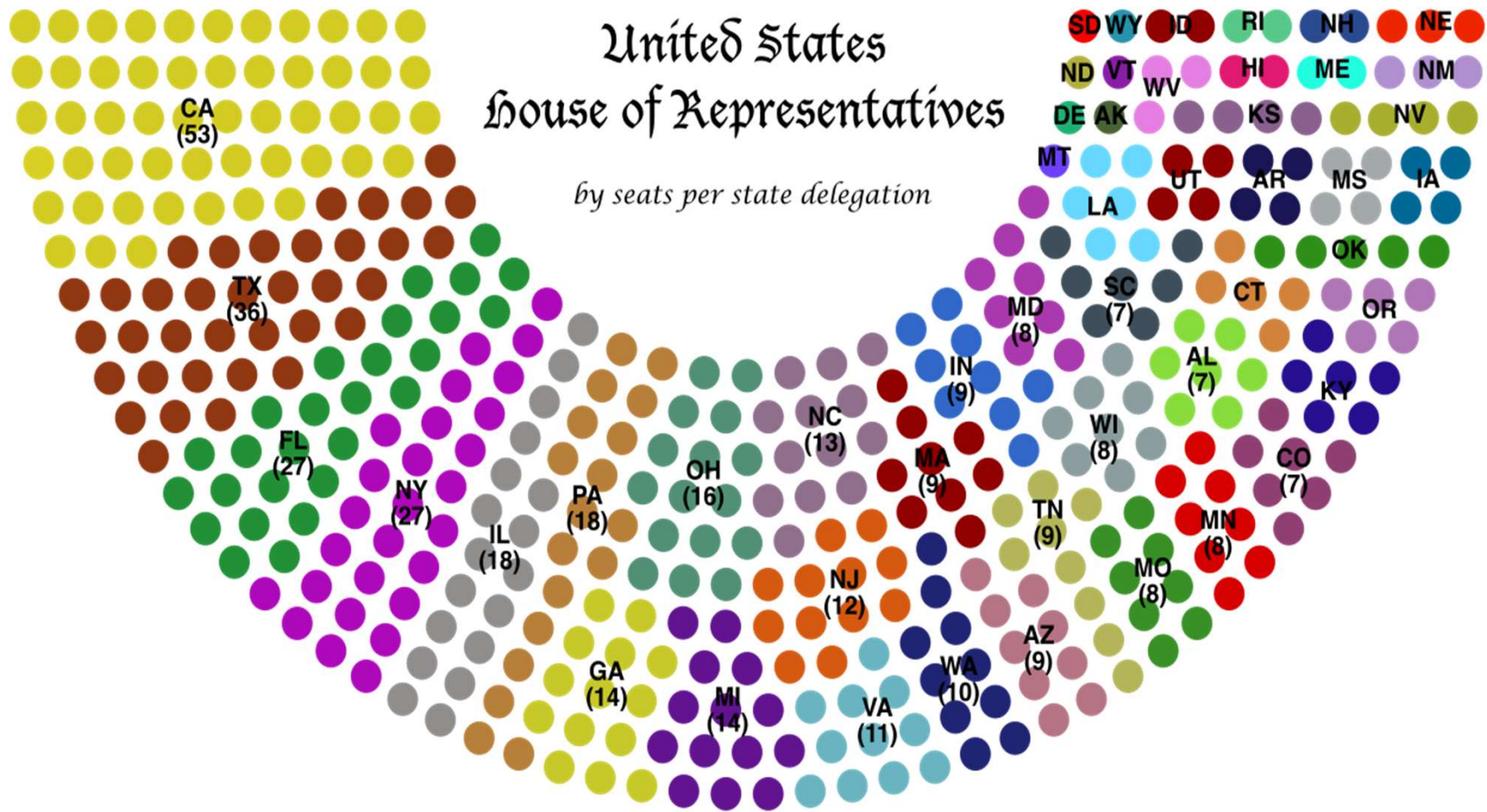
Census – Every 10 years to determine population

Constituents – the people and interests each House member represents

Reapportionment – Congress divides the 435 House seats between states based on population

Redistricting – state legislature draws the new district lines

Gerrymandering – drawing district lines based on some characteristic other than just population



Drawing of Congressional Districts

How often are districts redrawn?

Who draws the districts?

Is there any oversight?

What are the rules?

Districts must be: contiguous, compact, and equal in number of people represented.

Based on demographic shifts, states may gain or lose seats.

Each House member represents an average of 710,767 Americans.



Georgia 2001 CD 13 ▲



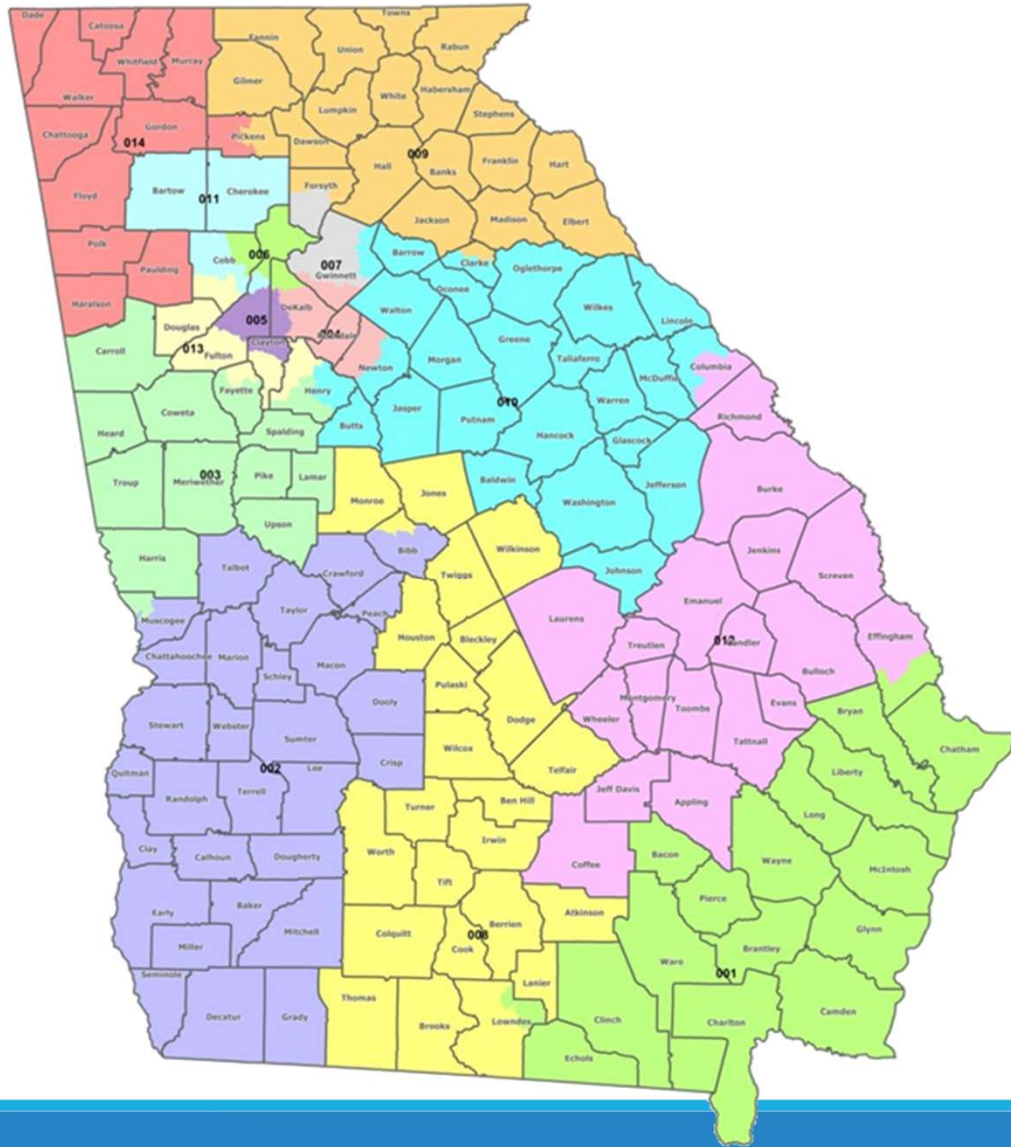
Florida 2001 ▲
CD 22

Why Use Gerrymandering?

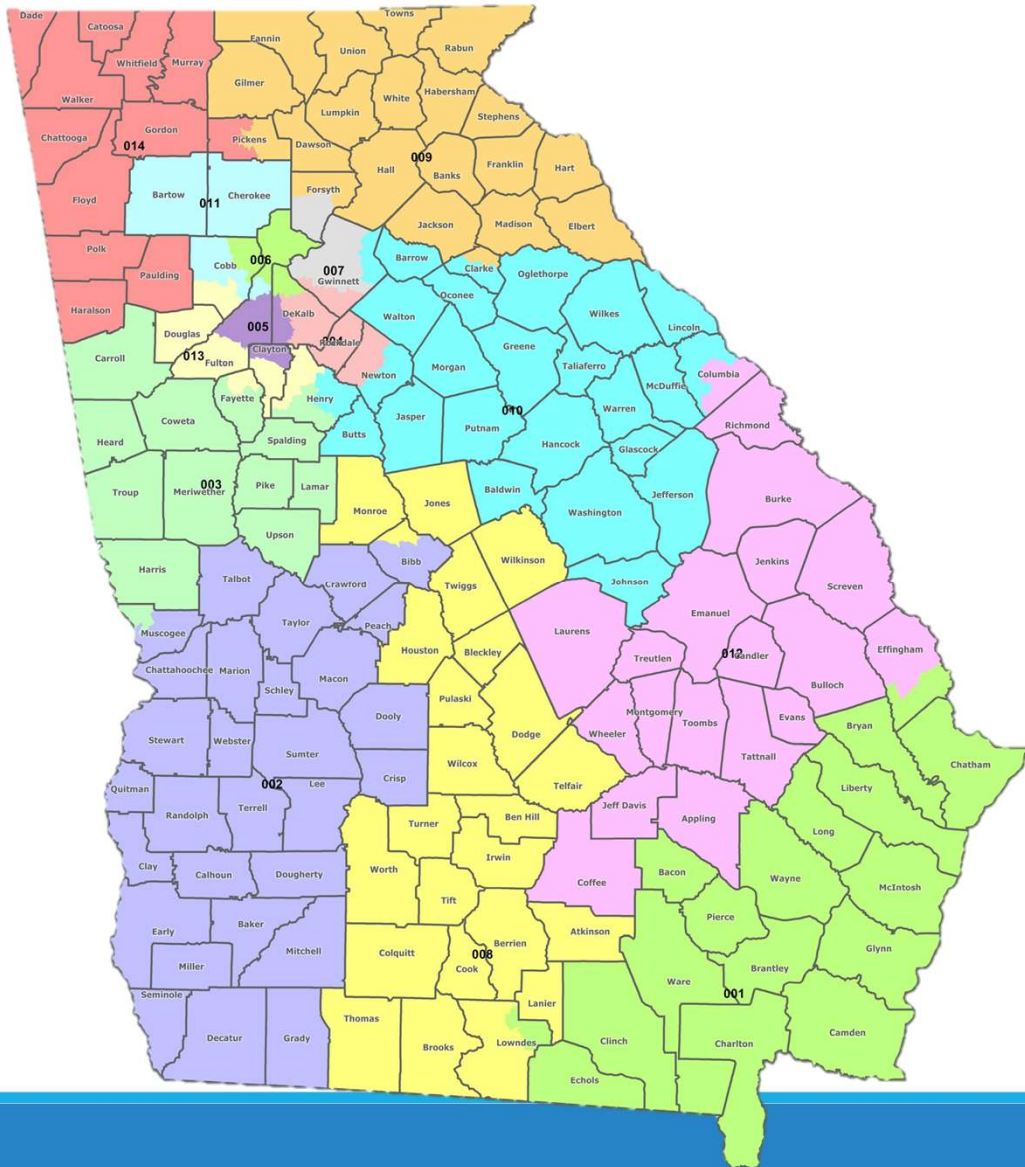
Districts can be drawn by state legislatures so that one party would gain a political advantage.

Is gerrymandering legal?



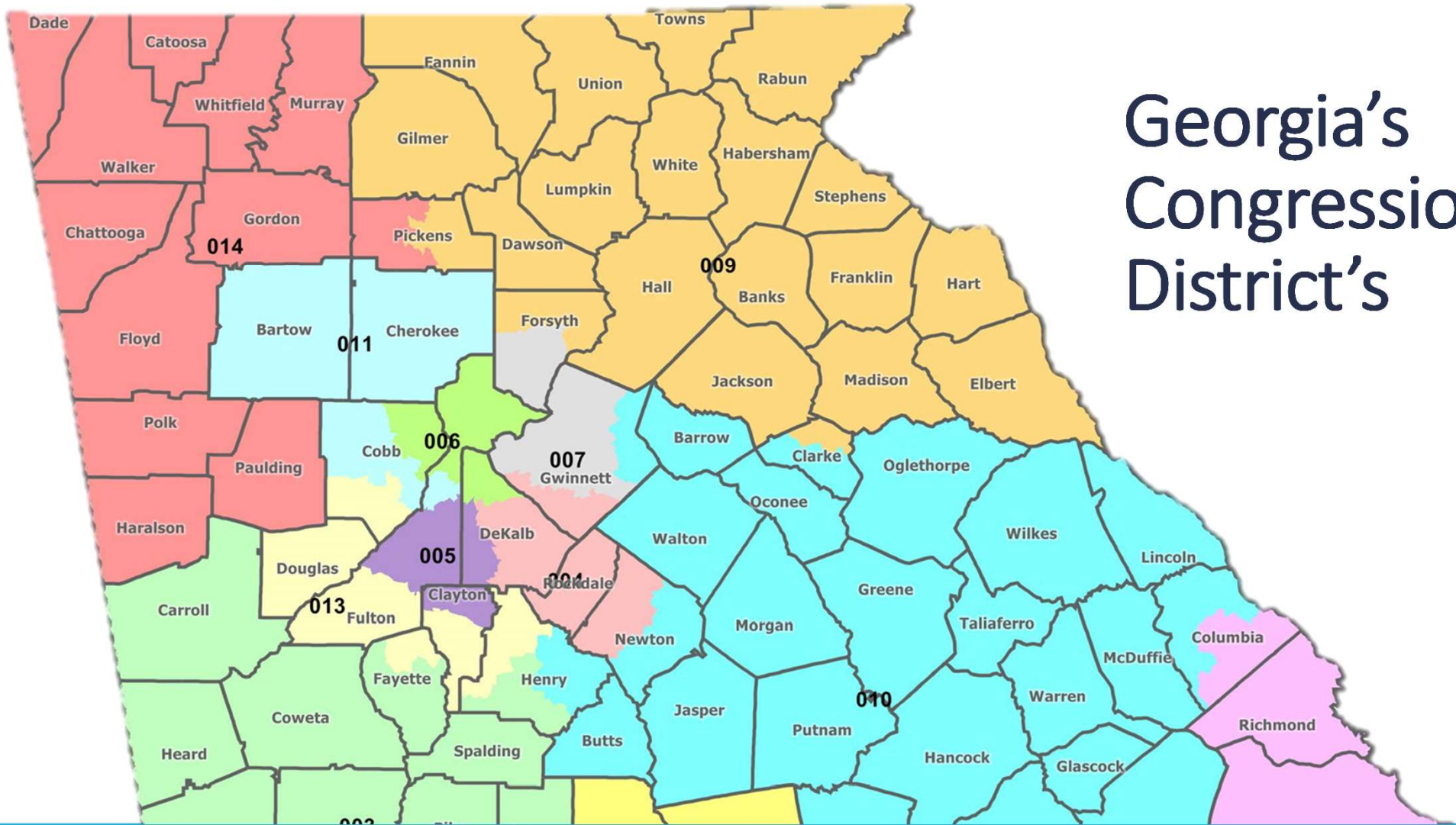


Georgia's Congressional District's



Georgia's Congressional District's

Georgia's Congressional District's



15TH AMENDMENT

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

- (1870)

26TH AMENDMENT

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Powers of Congress



**LEGISLATIVE AND
NON-LEGISLATIVE POWERS**

Legislative Powers



- Taxing and Spending Power

- Collect Taxes
- Borrow Money
- Coin/Print Money
- Punish counterfeiters

- Implies power to support public school, Welfare programs, and public housing
- Implies power to maintain Fed Reserve

- Regulate Commerce

- Foreign commerce
- Interstate commerce

- Implies power to prohibit discrimination, in businesses and public accommodations

Legislative Powers

- Foreign Policy Power

- Declare War
- Raise/Support Military

• Implies power to draft into the armed services

- Other Powers

- Establish Naturalization Laws
- Establish Post Office
- Grant Copyright/Patent
- Weights and Measures
- Judicial Powers – creating federal courts
- Provide Necessary and Proper Laws

• Implies power to limit immigrants into the country

Non-Legislative Powers



- **Admit New States to the Union**
- **Amend the Constitution**
- **Count Electoral Votes**
 - **If no majority (270), 12th Amendment requires:**
 - the House, voting as States, selects the President.
 - the Senate, voting as individuals, selects the V.P.
- **Serve as a Government “Watchdog”**
 - **Congressional committees can hold hearings and investigations, call witnesses, and make recommendations**

Non-Legislative Powers



- **Advise and Consent (Senate approval of items)**
 - **Presidential Appointments (V.P., Justices, Cabinet)**
 - **Formal Agreements with Foreign Nations (Treaties)**
- **Impeachment of Federal Officials**
 - **Step 1: Charges (requires Majority Vote in House)**
 - **Step 2: Trial – with possible Conviction and Removal (requires 2/3 Vote in the Senate)**

Congressional Expectations



- *Loyalty* to chamber
- *Civility* to each other
- *Seniority* – the most senior members get more choice of assignments
- *Specialization* – become an expert in an area
- *Reciprocity (“logrolling”)* – support for each others bill. “I’ll help pass your transportation bill now if you help pass my health care bill when it comes to the floor.”

Power to Declare War



War - Only Congress can declare war, they have the power to raise and support armies, provide and maintain the navy, make rules about the governing of land, can call forth the militia, can make rules concerning captures on land and water.

- **War Powers Resolution of 1973**- President must notify Congress within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action and forbids armed forces from remaining for more than 60 days without an authorization of the use of military force or a declaration of **war**.

16TH AMENDMENT

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.
(1913)

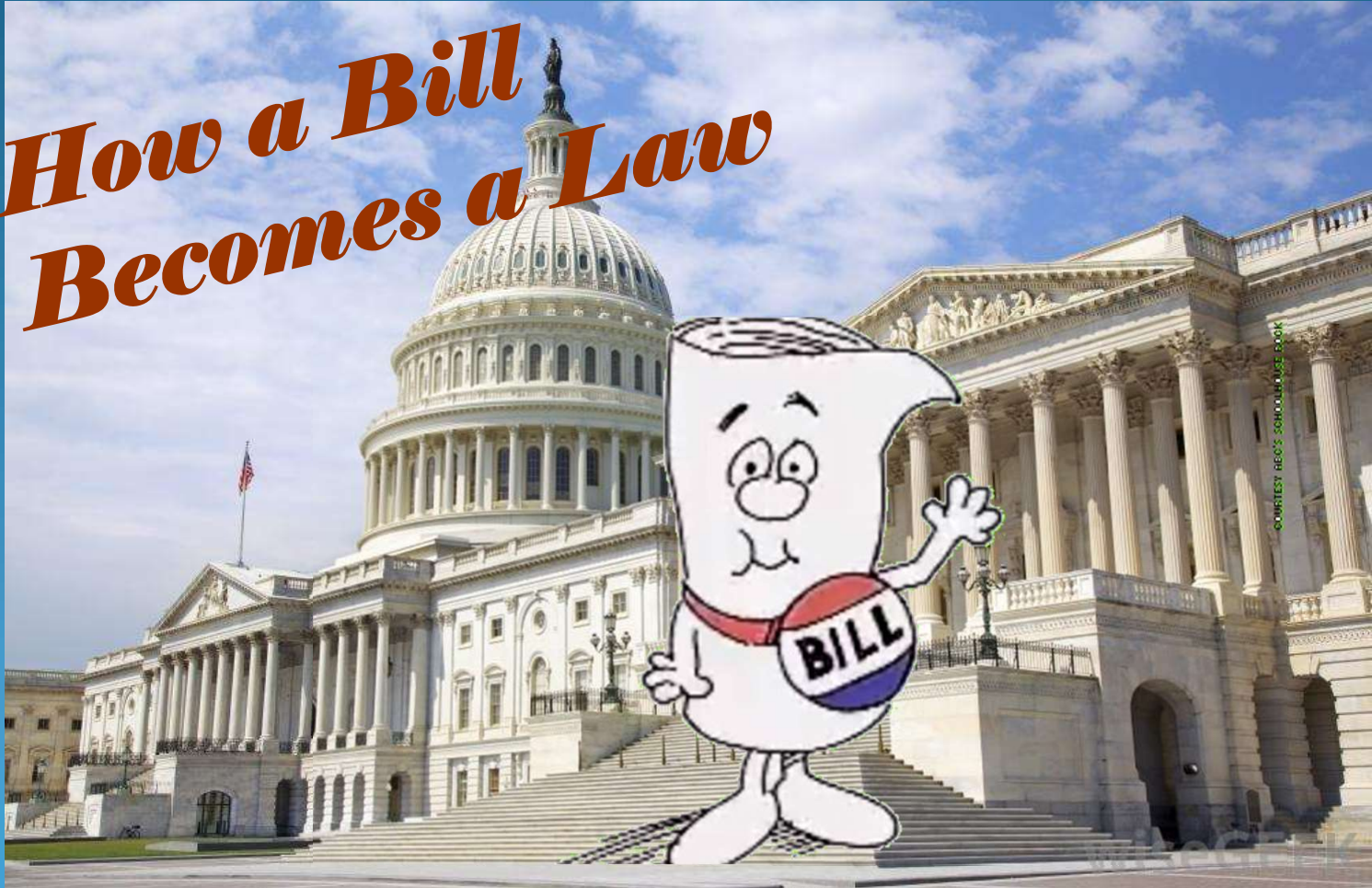
19TH AMENDMENT

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

(1920)

How a Bill Becomes a Law



COURTESY REE'S SCHOOLHOUSE BOOKS

Watch this video!!

<https://youtu.be/FFroMQlKiag>

Who Can Propose A Law?

- Anyone can suggest an idea for a law.
- However, only a Member of Congress can take a proposed law to the House of Representatives or the Senate.
- The member who proposes the law is the Sponsor.

What happens First?

- A member of the House or Senate drafts a bill.
- They submit the bill to the House or Senate.
- House uses the Hopper, Senate must present
- The bill is assigned a number that begins with:
 - H.R. for House of Representatives
 - S. for Senate
- The bill is then sent to the appropriate committee.





The Standing Committee

- ♦ This is a permanent committee in the House or Senate that studies bills related to a general topic, such as education, agriculture or science.
- ♦ The committee chair assigns the bill to the appropriate subcommittee.



The Subcommittee

- The subcommittee studies bills related to a sub-set of the topics covered by the standing committee.
- All of the members of the subcommittee are part of the standing committee.
- Most of the discussion in Congress takes place here.
- The chair of the subcommittee, in consultation with other committee members, decides whether to schedule a bill for discussion.
- The subcommittee may also decide to stop action on a bill that they think is not necessary or wise. The bill then dies.

The Subcommittee

- The subcommittee first holds hearings on the bill, giving supporters, opponents and experts a chance to voice their views.
- Amendments (changes) to the bill are then suggested and voted on.
- The subcommittee may also decide to write an entirely new bill.
- Finally, the subcommittee votes on whether to take the bill to the full committee for a vote.
- If the bill does not pass, it dies.

Most bills die here.



The Standing Committee

- The committee discusses the bill.
- Committee members suggest and vote on amendments.
- The committee votes on whether to send the bill to the full House or Senate.

The Standing Committee

- If the bill passes, the committee writes a report explaining:
 - The key points of the bill
 - The changes they have made
 - How this bill compares to current laws
 - Why they recommend this bill for approval
- The bill and the report are then sent to the full House or Senate.



The Floor

(whole House or Senate)

- The bill is placed on the calendar of the House or Senate until it is scheduled for discussion.
- The House and Senate have different rules for debating the bill.

Debate on the House Floor

- The House is chaired by the Speaker of the House
- Before debate begins, a time limit is set for how long any Member can speak (usually 1 – 5 minutes).
- First a Member speaks who is for the bill and then one who is against the bill. Debate continues in this way.

Debate on the House Floor

- Debate on a bill can be ended by a simple majority vote.
- Following this debate, amendments to the bill can then be suggested and debated. The same rules apply.
- Finally, the bill is put to a vote.
- Voice Vote, Standing Vote, Roll-call, Electronic

Debate on the Senate Floor

- There are no time limits to debate in the Senate. Members may speak for as long as they choose. (non-germane)
- Amendments may be offered at any time during debate.
- At the end of debate, the bill is put to a vote.
- Voice Vote, Standing Vote, Roll-call

What Happens Next?

- Both the House and the Senate must pass similar forms of a bill.
- If a bill is passed in only the House or the Senate, it is sent to the other one for debate, amendment and a vote.
- After both the House and the Senate have passed similar bills, the two bills are sent to a conference committee.

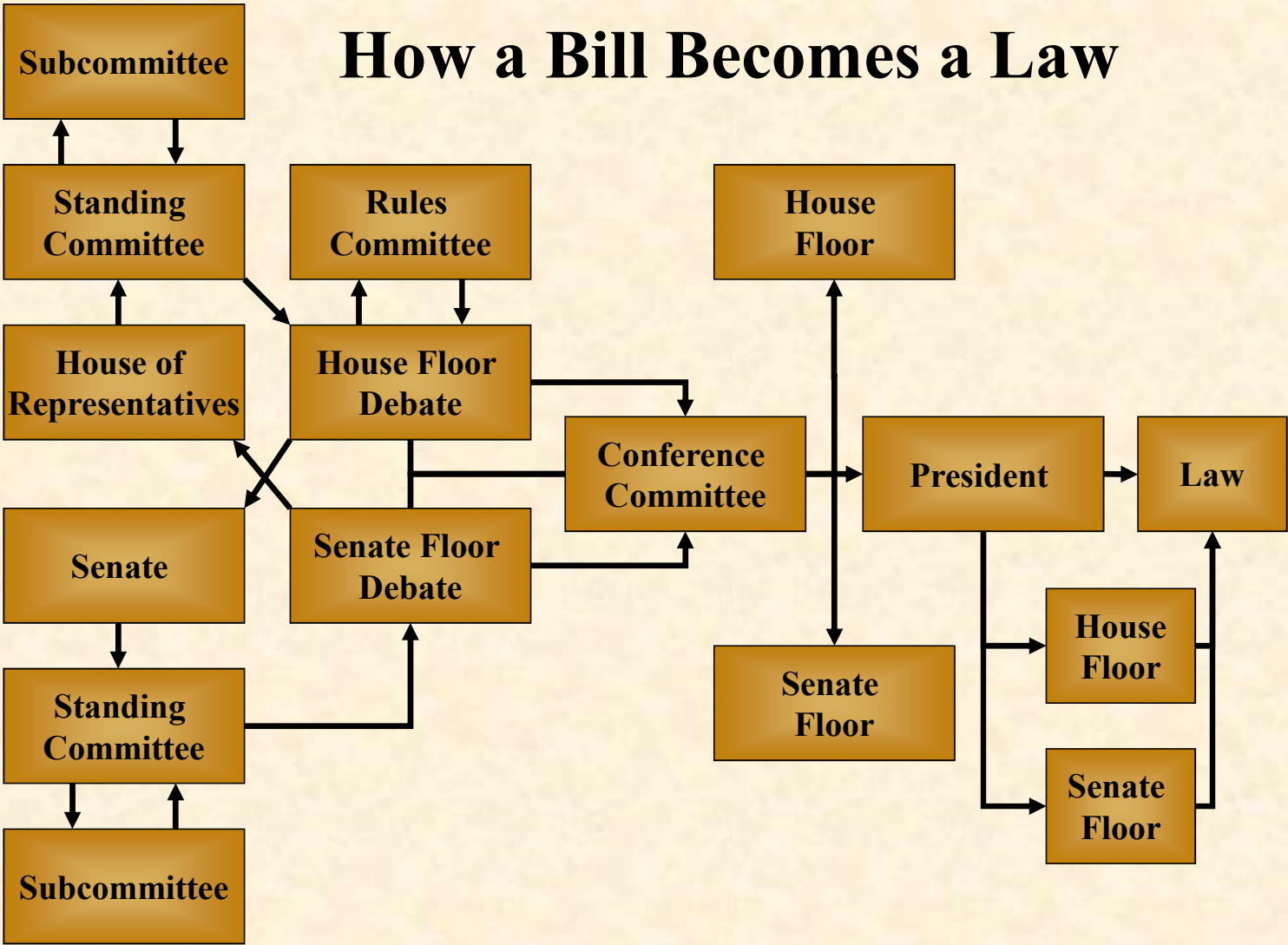
The Conference Committee

- The conference committee includes members of both the House and the Senate.
- The committee discusses the differences between the two bills.
- They re-write the bill in a form that they think will pass in both the House and the Senate and vote on it.
- After they pass the re-written bill, the committee writes a report that contains:
 - The re-written bill
 - An explanation of how they worked out the differences between the two bills

Back to the Floor

- The conference committee report with the re-written bill is sent to the House for a vote.
- If the House passes the bill, it is sent to the Senate.
- If the House or the Senate does not pass the bill, it dies.
- If the bill passes in both the House and the Senate, it is sent to the President.

How a Bill Becomes a Law





Congressional Leadership

Leadership in the House of Representatives



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Selected by the majority party



Nancy Pelosi
D – California

Job:

Presiding Officer of the House

Power:

Decides which committee a bill goes to.

Leadership in the House of Representatives



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Majority Leader

Leads the Majority party



Steny Hoyer
D - Maryland

Job: Support legislation for party and get it passed

Minority Leader

Leads the Minority party



Kevin McCarthy
R - California

Job: Leads Opposition to the Majority Party

Leadership in the House of Representatives



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Majority Leader

Minority Leader

Majority Whip

Minority Whip



Jim Clyburn
D – South Carolina

Job: Assists the leader, rounds up votes, heads large group of deputy and assistant whips.

Job: Assists the leader, rounds up votes, heads large group of deputy and assistant whips.



Steve Scalise
R – Louisiana

Leadership in the United States Senate



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

The Vice President of the United States



Vice President
Mike Pence

Job: President of the
Senate

Power: Breaks tie in
legislation. Otherwise
does not vote.

Leadership in the United States Senate



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Selected by majority party. Usually most senior member of the Senate majority party



Job:

Presides over the Senate when the Vice President is absent.

Charles Grassley

R – Iowa

Leadership in the United States Senate



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Majority Leader

Leads the Republican party



Job: Guides legislation

Mitch McConnell
R - Kentucky

Minority Leader

Leads the Democratic party



Job: Leads Opposition to the Majority Party

Chuck Schumer
D - New York

Georgia's Representatives



Johnny Isakson
Senator (R)

He retired in January. His replacement is Kelly Loeffler, until the next election in November.



David Perdue
Senator (R)

Georgia's Representatives

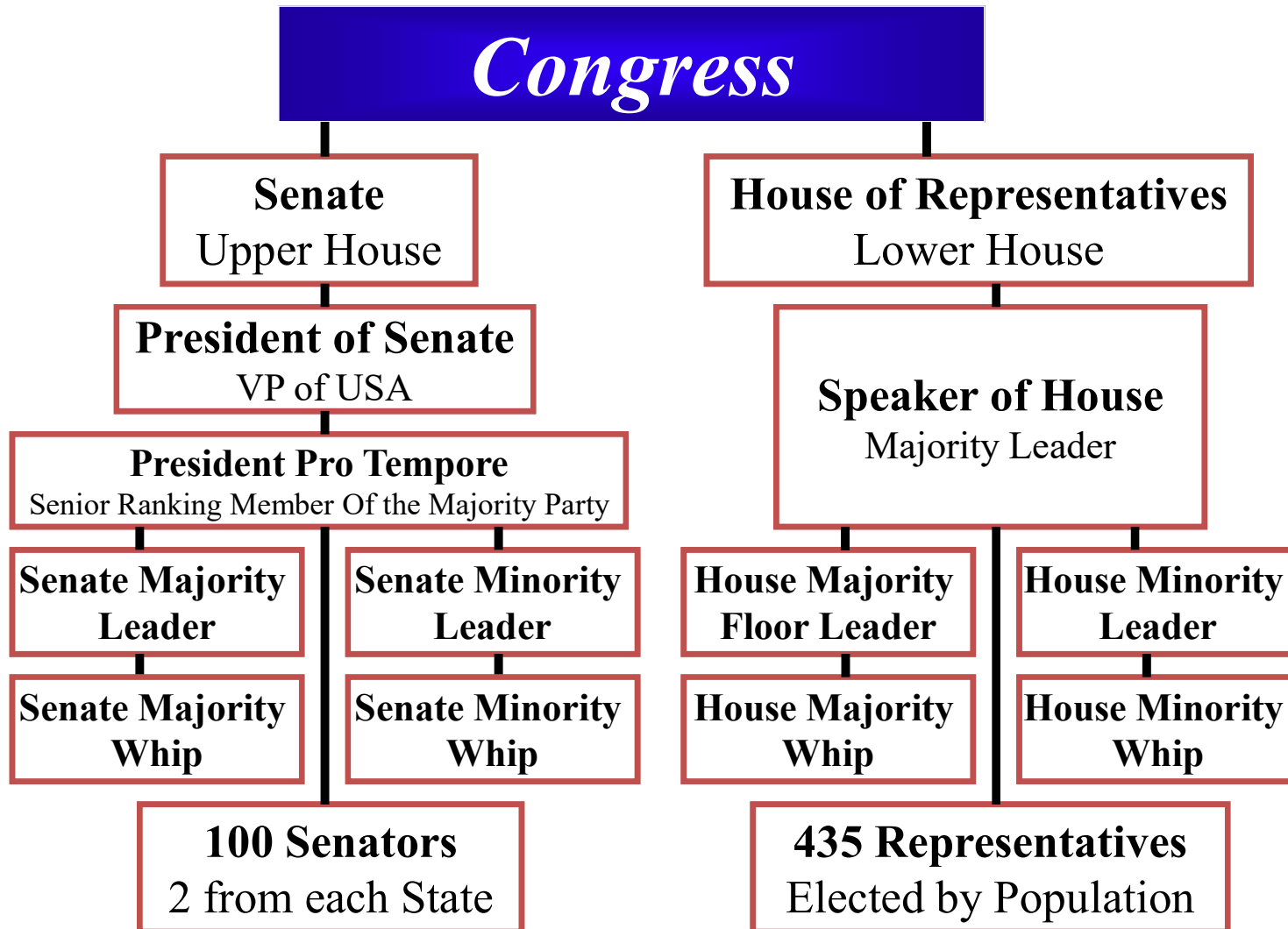


- Georgia currently has 14 congressional districts.
- Kennesaw's current congressional district is the 11th represented by:



Barry Loudermilk (R)
11th Congressional District

Congress



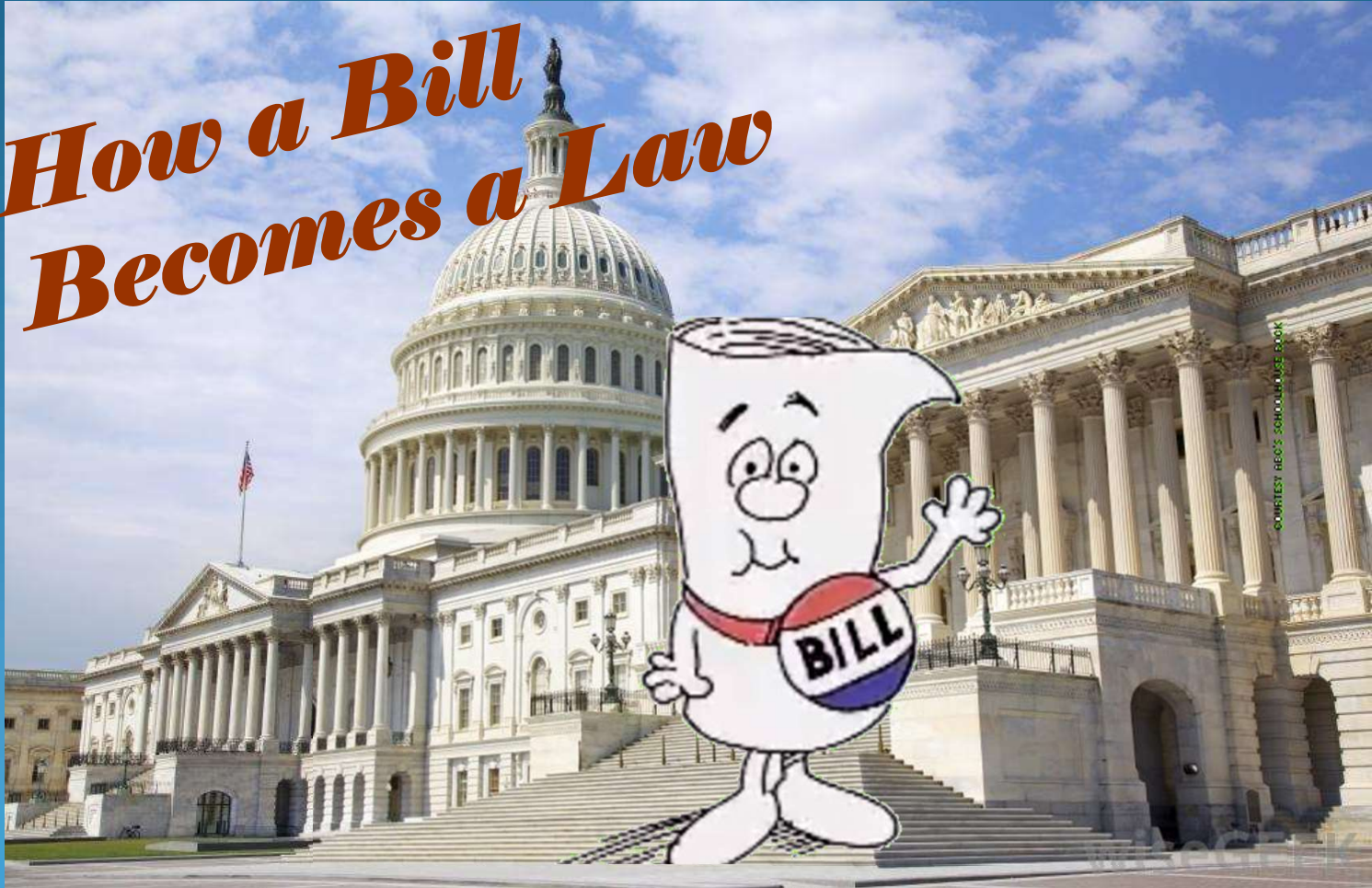
Find the Chart below on page 8 of your packet.

Senator	Both	Representative

Congressional Trivia

- Elections held in November in even-numbered years.
- An midterm election is the congressional election held between presidential elections. The president's party usually loses seats.
- Pay: \$174,000 per year (since 2009)
- Receive low cost medical care, free printing of materials, and franking privileges.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



COURTESY REE'S SCHOOLHOUSE BOOKS

Congressional Resolutions

- **Simple Resolution:** matters affecting only one house. Rules and procedures.
- **Concurrent Resolution:** passed by both houses, but is not a law.
- **Joint Resolution:** passed by both houses and signed by President. Force of law.

Congressional Resolutions

- ♦ H.Res.489 - Condemning President Trump's racist comments directed at Members of Congress
- ♦ H.Res.393 — Remembering the victims of the violent suppression of democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and elsewhere in China on June 3 and 4, 1989, and calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the universally recognized human rights of all people living in China and around the world.
- ♦ H.Res.327 — Encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults.



Riders

- ♦ A provision on a subject other than the one covered in the bill.
- ♦ Christmas tree bill: covered with riders.



Congressional Committees

What are they and what do they do?



History of Committees

- Are not mentioned in the Constitution
- Have been used since the first meeting of Congress in 1789.
- Allow Congress to portion out the workload to manage all the responsibilities of each of the 2 houses.



What are Committees?

- There are about 200 committees and sub-committees that make up the House and Senate.
- 3 types: standing, select, and joint
- Conference committees are called to resolve a specific difference between the House and Senate.



Committees are made up of...

- Party leaders determine the size of each committee (made up of both majority and minority members)
- The majority party always holds more seats on a committee
- Political parties determine which members will serve on what committee
- Chairpersons determine the agenda and control the budget



How do they work?

- Work begins when a bill that is proposed is submitted for consideration to the committee
- Only a small number of bills that are submitted for consideration are accepted by committees
- If a committee doesn't accept a bill it is said to “die in committee”



Working, con't

- The committee's first step in considering a bill is usually to ask for written comment by the executive agency that will be responsible for administering it should it become law
- Hold hearings to gather opinions from outside experts and concerned citizens



Working, con't

- If the bill moves ahead, it is revised through a process called markup
- Approved bills are written up to Congress in a report which highlights why the bill should be passed



Still Working.....

- Once a bill comes to the floor of the House or Senate, the committee that reported it is usually responsible for guiding it through debate and securing its passage.
- Likewise, if the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, the committees that reported each version will take the lead in working out a compromise through a conference committee.

Interest Groups in Politics



What is an Interest Group?

A group of people who hold common views and who work together to influence what the government does about those things they have in common.

Goal: Lobbying for the Cause

- Lobbyists work for the interest group to get elected officials to pass policies that will be good for their group
 - Provide public opinion information
 - Provide data and statistics to support the cause
 - Find experts to testify in favor of laws

Types of Interest Groups

- ***Economic***

- establish standards, better working conditions
- Determined by the way people earn a living
- Business & professional, labor, agricultural

- **NAM (National Association of Manufacturers)**
- **American Bankers Association**
- **AFL-CIO**
- **General Motors**
- **AMA (American Medical Association)**
- **ABA (American Bar Association)**
- **NEA (National Education Association)**

Types of Interest Groups

• *Social Action*

- Membership is determined by birth
 - Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Age
 - NOW - National Organization of Women
 - NAACP - National Association for Advancement of Colored Persons
 - AARP - American Association of Retired Persons

• *Single Issue*

- Focus on one policy area
 - MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
 - NRA (National Rifle Association)

Types of Interest Groups

- ***Religious***

- support or oppose laws morally
 - U.S. Catholic Conference
 - Christian Coalition

- ***Public Interest***

- Environment, Voter Registration, Consumer Protection, Historic preservation
 - Sierra Club
 - Common Cause



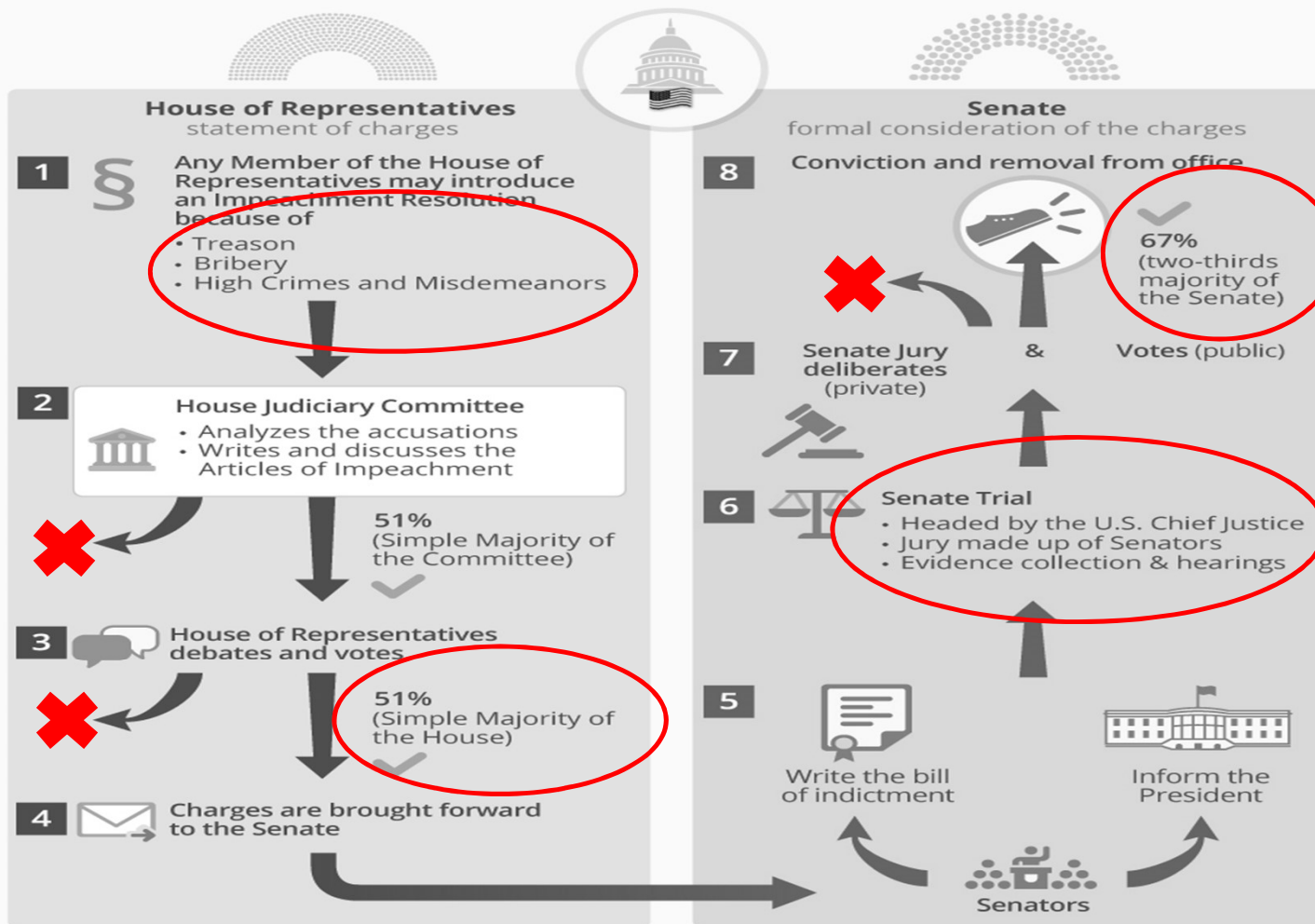
Goal: Help get people elected that will support the cause

- Form Political Action Committees (PACs)
 - A part of the interest group that uses money from interest groups membership fees and donations to educate lawmakers and to support political candidates that support their groups' policy choices
- Most money goes to incumbents (those in office and running for re-election)

The Impeachment Process

- To impeach an official means to bring charges against that official.
- House of Representatives has the sole power to accuse and bring the charges
- It is the Senate's job to try, or judge, impeachment cases.

What an Impeachment of the President Would Look Like



Senator or Representative?

Senator	Both	Representative
<p>a. Elected to six-year term</p> <p>b. Must be at least 30</p> <p>g. Elected statewide</p> <p>h. Confirms presidential appointments</p> <p>j. Can use a filibuster to defeat a bill</p> <p>l. Simpler rules, less formal atmosphere</p>	<p>c. Makes laws for the nation</p> <p>d. Must reside in the state represented</p> <p>k. Any Member can introduce a bill</p>	<p>e. Must be 25 years of age</p> <p>f. Elected from a district</p> <p>i. Top leader is called the Speaker</p> <p>m. Relies more heavily on the committee system</p>

Packet 3 Practice Test

1) D

2) A

3) C

4) B

5) A

6) D

7) B

8) B

9) D

10) C

11) D

12) D

13) B

14) C

15) C