THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Congress is “**Bicameral**,” meaning it is made up of 2 HOUSES. The House of Representatives and the Senate.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

* 435 Members
* Representation is based on population. The bigger the state, the more representatives they get.
* Members must be at least 25 years old, they must be US Citizens for 7 years and live in the state they represent.
* The leader of the House is “The Speaker of the House” who is 2nd in line for the Presidency.

SENATE

* 100 Members
* Each state has equal representation in the Senate with 2 members coming from each state.
* Members must be at least 30 years old. They must be US Citizens for 9 years and live in the state they represent.
* The leaders of the Senate are
	+ The Vice President of the United States who serves as “The President of the Senate.” The VP is 1st in line for the Presidency.
	+ “The President Pro Temp of the Senate” is the acting leader of the Senate when

 the Vice President is unable to attend meetings (often). The President Pro Temp of

 the Senate is 3rd in line for the Presidency.

POWERS OF CONGRESS (Taken from Article 1 Section 8 of The United States Constitution)

* The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, [Imposts](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#IMPOST) and [Excises](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#EXCISE), to pay the Debts and provide for the common [Defence](http://www.usconstitution.net/constmiss.html) and general [Welfare](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#WELFARE) of the United States; but all Duties, [Imposts](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#IMPOST) and [Excises](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#EXCISE) shall be uniform throughout the United States;
* To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
* To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
* To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
* To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
* To establish Post Offices and [Post Roads](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#POSTROAD);
* To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
* To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;
* To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
* To declare War, grant [Letters of Marque](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#MARQUE) and [Reprisal](http://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#REPRISAL), and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
* To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
* To provide and maintain a Navy;
* To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
* To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
* To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
* To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
* To 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, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

LIMITS ON CONGRESS

* Must be elected by the people
* Laws may be vetoed by the President
* Laws may be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court
* Must follow the guidelines set forth by the Constitution.
* 10th Amendment (look it up)