

We the People of the United States, in order to insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and bind ourselves together, in one Union, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Section 1. All Legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Chilton. 2. The House of Representatives, and a majority of members chosen every second year by all the people of the several States and the District of Columbia, shall have the sole power of originating revenue bills, and shall have the sole power of appropriating money for the use of the United States.

Mr. Brown, what is a Prophetic letter and what will have relation to the sign of unity peace grace and love ever grace a citizen of the trinitarian city and who shall not, when elected to an ecclesiastical of that church in which he shall be chosen.

[illegible]

The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers, and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The intent of the trust shall be the payment of the income from and principal, when by the Legislative Assembly for one year, and each year thereafter, to be paid to the said person or persons.

[illegible]

*N. Brown* which he obtained, which not have amounted to the type of *Chrys. fuscus*, and there were given a *Chrys. fuscus* of the same locality and he did not return either the authorisation of the letter for which he asked to return.

The Vice President of the Senate, Mr. John C. Breckinridge, has not thought it his duty to send a letter to the President, but he has written a letter to the Vice President, in which he has expressed his opinion of the President's conduct.

# THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

- In 1787, delegates (representatives) from 12 of the 13 states met in Philadelphia
- They initially just planned to revise the Articles of Confederation
- They quickly realized that they needed to start from scratch and write a brand new Constitution
- Delegates from each state had different ideas for what would work best for both their state and the country as a whole, so **compromise** be crucial to the success of the Convention

# THE PROBLEM WITH REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS

- There were two popular plans for representation in Congress, but the problem was that one would benefit large states, and one would benefit small states

## Virginia Plan

- Bicameral Legislature
- Proportional representation (based on population size)

## New Jersey Plan

- Unicameral Legislature
- Equal representation (1 vote per state, just like under the Articles of Confederation)

# THE GREAT COMPROMISE

- A delegate from Connecticut suggested a plan that parts of both the Virginia and New Jersey
- **The Great Compromise**
  - Bicameral Legislature
  - House of Representatives = Proportional Representation (based on population size, so it satisfied the bigger states)
  - Senate= Equal Representation (2 Senators per state, each gets one vote; so it satisfied the smaller states)

# ELECTING THE PRESIDENT – THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- Delegates decided the President would be elected indirectly by the people through the **Electoral College**
- Citizens vote for the President in a general election
- Those votes actually go to their state's electors in the Electoral College
- In most state, the candidate who wins a state general election usually gets all of that state's electoral votes
- The state's number of electoral votes is determined by adding the number of representatives they have in the House of Representatives (based on population size) + the number of senators they have (2 for each state)

# FEDERALISTS VS. ANTIFEDERALISTS

- Most of the delegates were happy with the new constitution, but not all of them
- The delegates who were in favor of the new constitution were called the *Federalists*
- The delegates who were against the new constitution were called the *Anti-Federalists*
  - *They feared the new government would be too strong and could infringe on the rights of the people*
  - *They demanded that a Bill of Rights be included in the Constitution. This would guarantee certain rights and liberties for all Americans that the government could not take away*

# THE BILL OF RIGHTS

- 1 Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
- 2 Right to keep and bear arms in order to maintain a well regulated militia.
- 3 No quartering of soldiers.
- 4 Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- 5 Right to due process of law, freedom from self-incrimination, double jeopardy.
- 6 Rights of accused persons, e.g., right to a speedy and public trial.
- 7 Right of trial by jury in civil cases.
- 8 Freedom from excessive bail, cruel and unusual punishments.
- 9 Other rights of the people.
- 10 Powers reserved to the states.





# THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



# SEPARATION OF POWERS

- Constitutional Principle that divides different powers among three branches of government
- Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches have their own jobs
  - Legislative Branch: Makes Laws
  - Executive Branch: Enforces Laws
  - Judicial Branch: Interprets Laws

# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BREAKDOWN



- **Role:** To make, or write, the laws
- **Parts/Size:**
  - House of Representatives: 435 (based on population)
  - Senate: 100 (2 per state)
  - 535 total
- **Congress** = House of Representatives + Senate
- **Requirements to Serve:**
  - House of Representatives: 25 years old, citizen for 7 years, resident of the state
  - Senate: 30 years old, citizen for 9 years, resident of the state

# CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE

- Constituents= the people who live within a particular geographic area
- Interest Group= like-minded people who join together
- Members of Congress are influenced by their constituents, interest groups, and the needs of the country.

# THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- The Constitution states that seats in the House, “shall be apportioned among the several states...according to their respective numbers”
- Apportionment = the distribution of House seats among the states based on population
- More people = more representation
- Total House seats= 435
- Currently led by Speaker of the House – Nancy Pelosi

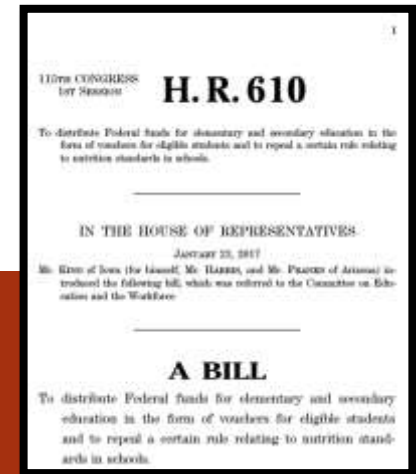


# THE SENATE

- The Constitution fixes membership in the Senate at “two Senators from each state”
- All States have 2 Senators
- Total Senators = 100



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



- **Length of Term:**
  - House of Representatives: 2 years
  - Senate: 6 years
  - Both can be elected an unlimited number of times.
  - *Why do you think they serve different term lengths?*
- **Major Powers (To name a few):**
  - Write laws
  - Develop the budget and levy taxes
  - Declare war
  - Regulate commerce

# EXECUTIVE BRANCH



- **Role:** To enforce the laws
- Currently led by President Joe Biden
- **Parts:**
  - The President
  - The Vice President
  - The Bureaucracy and The President's Cabinet (His close group of advisors)
- **The Bureaucracy:**
  - The people who enforce the laws and carry out everyday business of gov't
  - **Examples:** IRS, Department of State





# EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- **Requirements to Serve as President/VP:**
  - 35 years old
  - Natural Born US Citizen
  - Resident of the U.S. for 14 years
- **Length of Term:** 4 years (limit of 2 terms, which do not have to be back to back)
- **Major Powers:**
  - Serve as commander-in-chief
  - Develop treaties
  - Enforce the laws of the U.S.



# THE MAJOR ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT

- Chief Executive

- carry out nation's laws
- issue executive orders (regulation from president that has the power of law)
- appoint cabinet members, judges/justices
- Issues pardons, reprieves, commutations



← Real



Not Real →

- Chief of State

- Serves as a representative or symbol of entire nation

- Chief Administrator

- Appoints and announces key administrative posts

- Chief Legislator

- Can introduce, propose, or encourage passing of laws
- Approves or vetoes laws



# THE MAJOR ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT



- Chief Diplomat
  - Deals with foreign countries
  - Appoints ambassadors to foreign countries
  - Makes treaties (which must be ratified by the senate)
- Commander in Chief
  - President has final authority over all military matters (remember that Congress declares war, but the President has power to order troops into battle)
- Chief of Party
  - Supports party members in election campaigns
  - Helps unify party and give it direction
- Chief Citizen (not really an official role, but assumed)
  - Protects the interest of all Americans, serves as a good role model

# JUDICIAL BRANCH

- The judicial branch is comprised of the judges and courts
- Job is to **Interpret the law**
- The Supreme Court is the highest court in America. It serves as the leader of the judicial branch
- They can overturn a law, ruling or court case if they think it is unconstitutional.
  - this is called “judicial review”
- There are 9 Supreme court Justices (8 Justices + 1 Chief Justice)
- serve for life or until retirement



# THE SUPREME COURT

- **Role:** To interpret the law
- **Parts:**
  - The Supreme Court (highest court in the US)
  - All other federal courts (inferior courts)
- **Requirements to Serve on the Supreme Court:**
  - The only requirements to serve on the Supreme Court is that the President must nominate you and the Senate must approve
- **Current Size of the Court:** 9 justices





# THE SUPREME COURT



- **Length of the Term:** Life under good behavior
- All federal judges serve for life so they can be free of influence from the public influence
- **Major Powers:**
  - Hear cases and rule on constitutionality
  - Ability to overturn laws or executive orders (this is called judicial review)






# CHECKS AND BALANCES



- Each branch holds different powers in order to prevent a concentration of power.
- **The purpose of checks and balances is to make sure no branch of the government becomes too strong**
- In addition, each one has the ability to limit the others, known as **checks and balances**.
- **For Example:**
  - The president can veto a bill passed by Congress.
  - Congress can refuse to approve a Supreme Court justice.
  - The Supreme Court can strike down an executive order.



# CHECKS AND BALANCES

<b>Executive Branch</b> (President carries out laws) 	<b>Checks on the Legislative Branch</b> Can propose laws Can veto laws Can call special sessions of Congress Makes appointments Negotiates foreign treaties	<b>Checks on the Judicial Branch</b> Appoints federal judges Can grant pardons to federal offenders
<b>Legislative Branch</b> (Congress makes laws) 	<b>Checks on the Executive Branch</b> Can override President's veto Confirms executive appointments Ratifies treaties Can declare war Appropriates money Can impeach and remove President	<b>Checks on the Judicial Branch</b> Creates lower federal courts Can impeach and remove judges Can propose amendments to overrule judicial decisions Approves appointments of federal judges
<b>Judicial Branch</b> (Supreme Court interprets laws) 	<b>Check on the Executive Branch</b> Can declare executive actions unconstitutional	<b>Check on the Legislative Branch</b> Can declare acts of Congress unconstitutional