

- I. Legislative Branch makes laws
  - A. Called "Congress" at the federal level
    - 1. Our Congress is "**bicameral**" or is made up of two houses
      - a) **House of Representatives**
        - (1) 535 members, based on state populations. Reps serve 2 year terms
      - b) **Senate**
        - (1) 100 members, 2 per state. Senators serve 6 year terms
    - B. Called "state legislatures" at the state level
      - 1. Looks a bit different from state to state. We have a bicameral state legislature with a state House of Representatives and a State Senate
    - C. Called "city council" or "board of selectmen" or "town council" at the local level.
      - 1. Our city also has a school committee, which creates legislation specific to the public schools
  - II. Requirements to serve in Congress are different for House and Senate
    - A. **House of Representatives**
      - 1. At least 25 years old
      - 2. US Citizen for at least 7 years
      - 3. Resident of the state you want to represent
    - B. **Senate**
      - 1. At least 30 years old
      - 2. US Citizen for at least 9 years
      - 3. Resident of the state you want to represent
  - III. Senate and House are set up similarly, but with unique structures
    - A. **Senate**
      - 1. The Senate is supposed to be the more "deliberative" body--that is they're supposed to think more closely about their decisions and use their own personal judgment, even if it goes against the desires of their **constituents**
      - 2. **Constituents** - the group of people represented by an elected official
        - a) Ex: residents of Springfield are all "constituents" of Mayor Sarno
      - 3. The Senate follows the "**Trustee**" model of representative government
        - a) **Trustee model** - When representatives are trusted with the power to make decisions for themselves, rather than always voting how their constituents want them to
      - 4. The Senate has 6 year terms to help protect Senators if their constituents don't like their decisions
        - a) The hope is people have a short memory and will forget controversial decisions before the next election cycle
        - b) Terms are staggered.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the Senate is up for reelection each year
    - B. **House of Representatives**
      - 1. The House is supposed to respond more closely to the will of the people--they are supposed to vote the way their constituents want them to

- a) We call this the **delegate model** of representative government
  - (1) **Delegate model**- when elected officials vote in the manner their constituents want them to on all issues
- 2. The House has 2 year terms to enable constituents to more easily vote their representatives out if they don't agree with the rep's decisions
- 3. The entire House is up for re-election every 2 years