

- 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. 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