

# The Legislature

The image shows the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., with its iconic dome and neoclassical architecture. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are green trees and a stone monument. The text "The Legislature" is overlaid in the center-left of the image.

# FUNCTIONS

- Representation
- Lawmaking
- Oversight
- Consensus Building
- *(Confirmation Powers in the Senate)*



# Bicameral



**Senate**

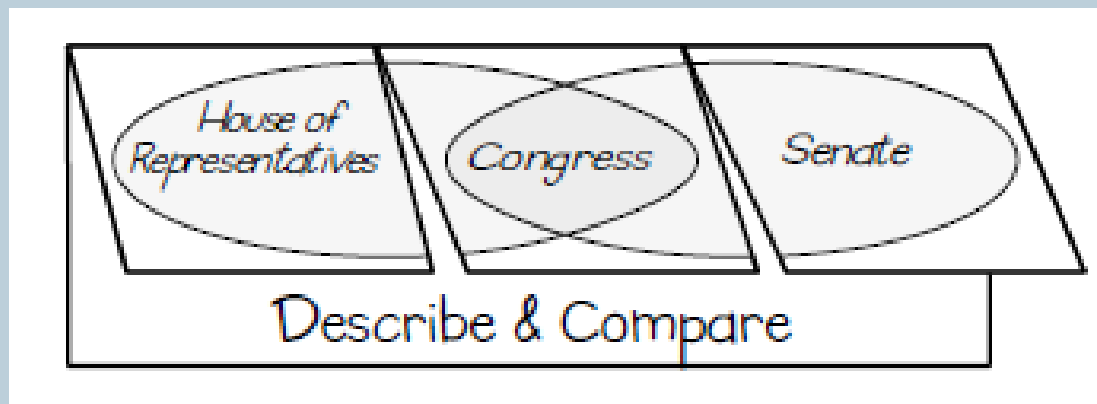


**House of Representatives**

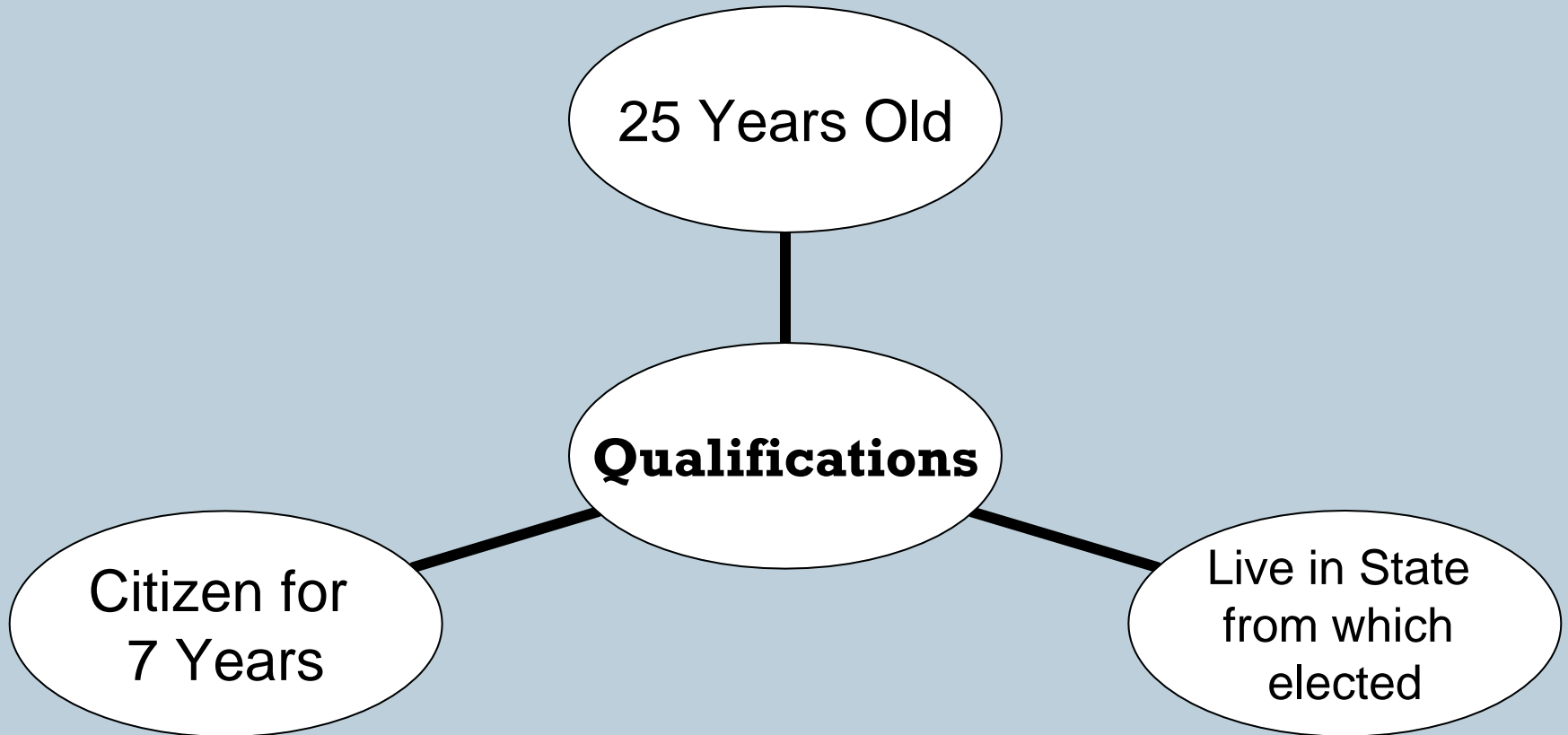


# Congress Foldable

- Fold your piece of paper like a hotdog
- In the middle write Congress, on the left House of Representatives, and on the right-Senate
- Make 2 cuts so that you have 3 sections and can lift the tab



# Who CAN be a Representative?

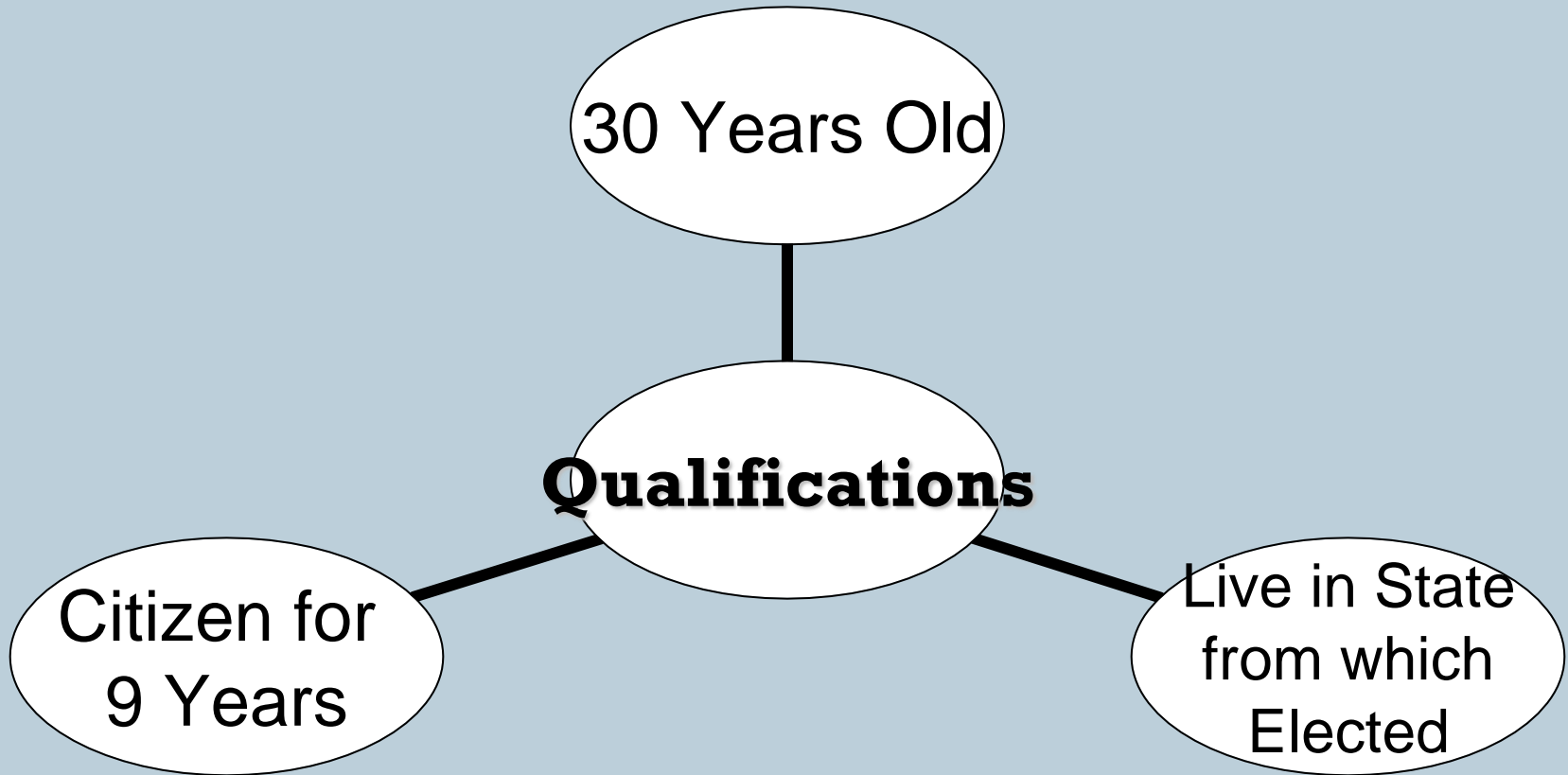


# How are Representatives elected?

- Direct, Popular Vote from people in their district



# Who CAN be a Senator?



# How are Senators elected?

- Direct, Popular Vote
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment (used to be state legislatures)!





# The Constitution on Congress-Foldable

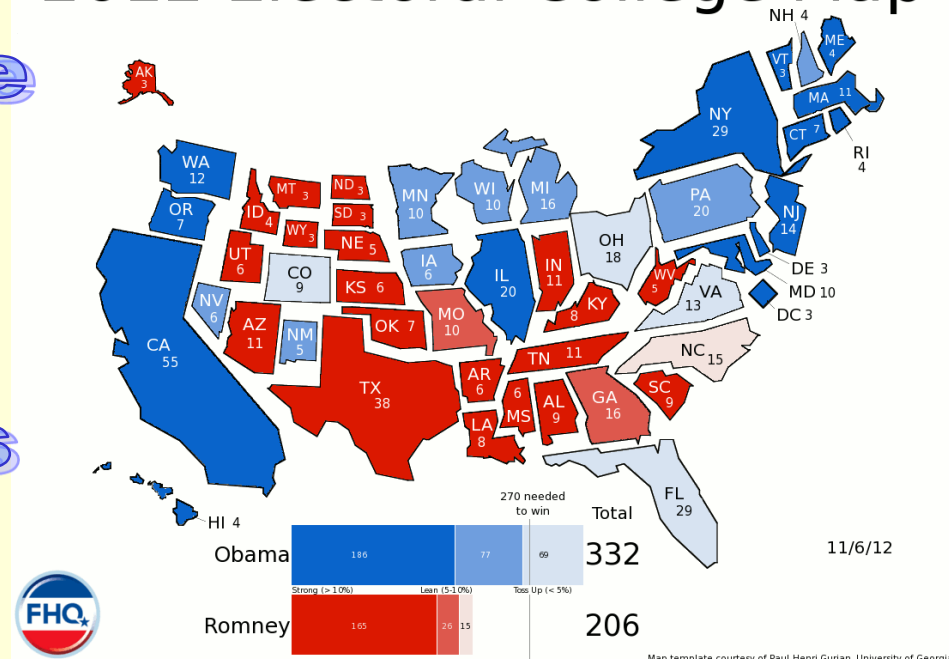
	<b>House of Representatives</b>	<b>Senate</b>
<i>Term Length</i>	2 years	6 years
<i>Members</i>	435 (each from equal districts)	100 (2 from each state)
<i>States given...</i>	Proportional Representation	Equal Representation
<i>Special Powers</i>	Initiates all money bills	Confirms all appointments
<i>Impeachment Role</i>	Initiates impeachment hearing	Tries impeached officials

# Apportionment for House

- Districts must be equal – Changes each Census
- 710,767 AVERAGE
  - Up from 63,000 from 2000
  - Up from 193,167 in 1900

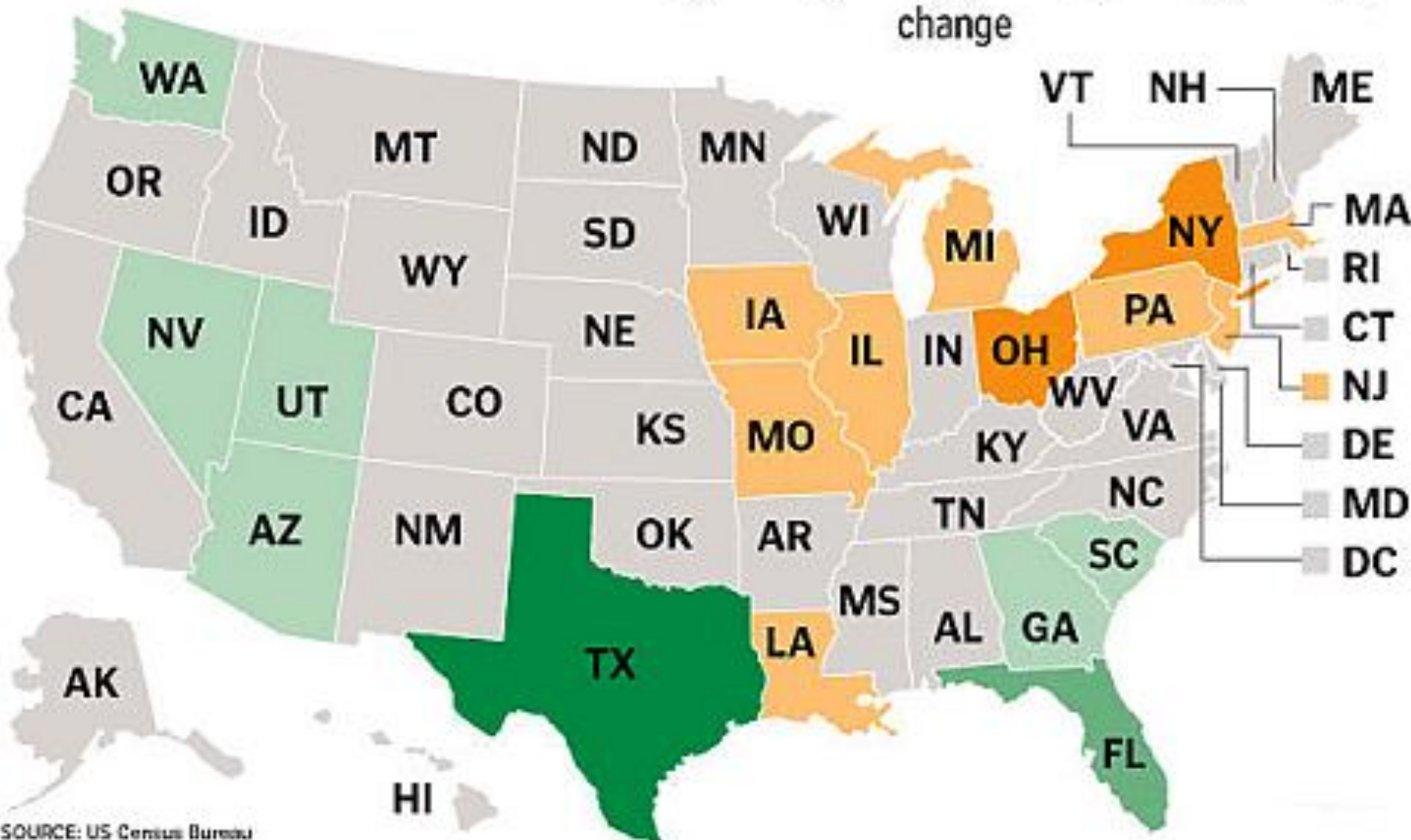
**Fact: The number of electoral college votes given to a state is its number of representatives PLUS its 2 senators.**

## 2012 Electoral College Map



# APPORTIONMENT CHANGE

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF HOUSE SEATS



SOURCE: US Census Bureau

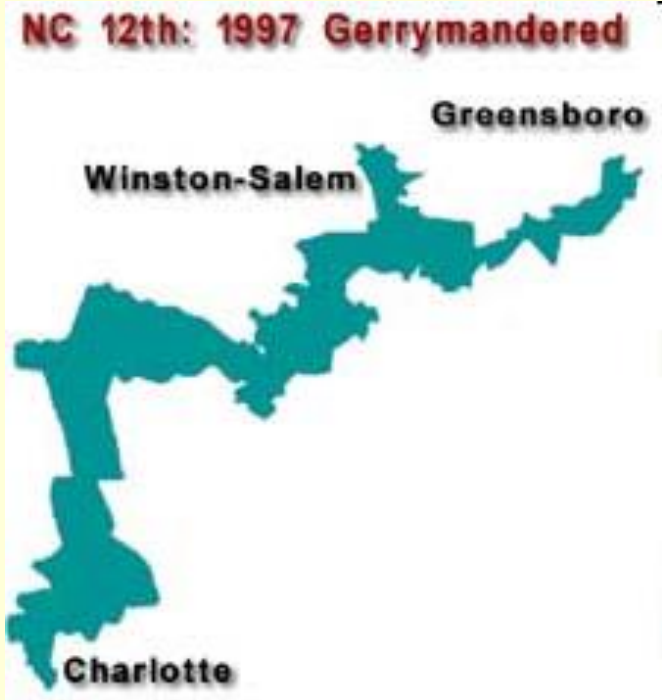
# Districting Rules

- Contiguous
- Compact
- **Equal in Representation**



# Gerrymandering

- For party benefit? Okay!
- Along racial lines? No!



# Gerrymandering

R - 5

D - 0

- Packing
- Splintering

R	R	R	R	R
R	R	R	R	R
R	R	R	R	R
D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	D

# How does Congress work??

<b>House of Representatives</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Strong Leadership – follow Authority	Collegiate – all play more equal role
Germane Amendments Only	Non-Germane Amendments (Riders) allowed
Committee Action VERY important	Floor debate VERY important
Rules Committee limits debate	Until Cloture invoked, even Filibuster allowed

# Committees

- Standing
- Sub-
- Joint
- Special
- Conference



**Woodrow Wilson:** *“Congress in session is Congress on exhibition;  
Congress in committee is Congress at work.”*



# Standing Committees

House

Joint

Senate

Agriculture	Economic	Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Appropriations	The Library	Appropriations
Armed Services	Printing	Armed Services
Budget	Taxation	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Education and the Workforce		Budget
Energy and Commerce		Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Financial Services		Energy and Natural Resources
Government Reform		Environment and Public Works
International Relations		Finance
Judiciary		Foreign Relations
Resources		Governmental Affairs
Rules		Judiciary
Science		Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Transportation and Infrastructure		Rules and Administration
Veterans Affairs		Veterans Affairs
Ways and Means		

# House Leadership



Speaker of the House  
**John Boehner (R)**-  
presiding officer, most  
powerful leader

Majority Leader-  
Speaker's top assistant,  
steers important bills  
through House

Minority Leader-critiques  
majority party's bills and  
tries to keep minority  
party united

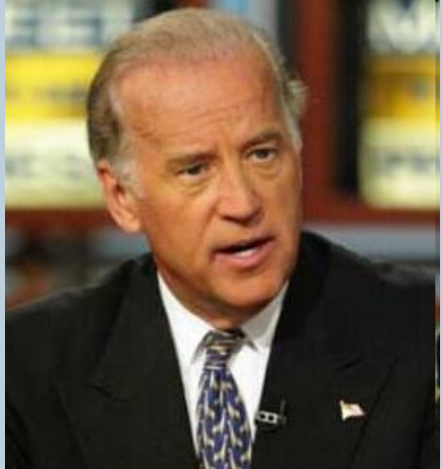
Majority Whip-assistant  
to majority party leaders,  
makes sure legislators  
show up to votes

Minority Whip- assistant  
to party floor leaders,  
makes sure legislators  
show up to votes

*Committee Chairs*

# Senate Leadership

President of the Senate  
**Joe Biden (D)**



President *Pro Tempore*  
**Orrin Hatch (R)**



Majority Leader

Minority Leader

Majority Whip

Minority Whip

# Congressional Staff

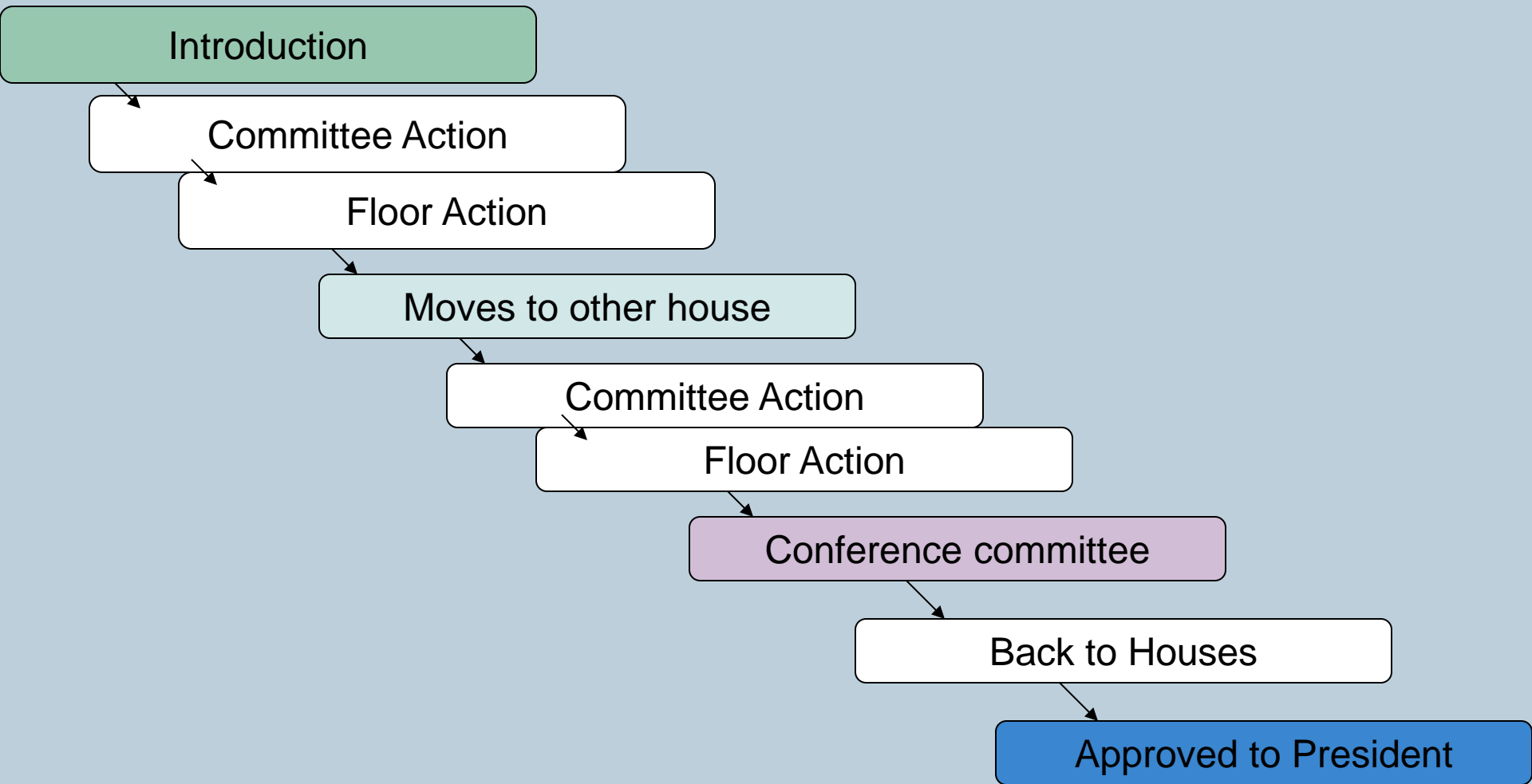
- Research
- Limit impact of lobbyists?



***Congressional  
Research  
Service***

# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

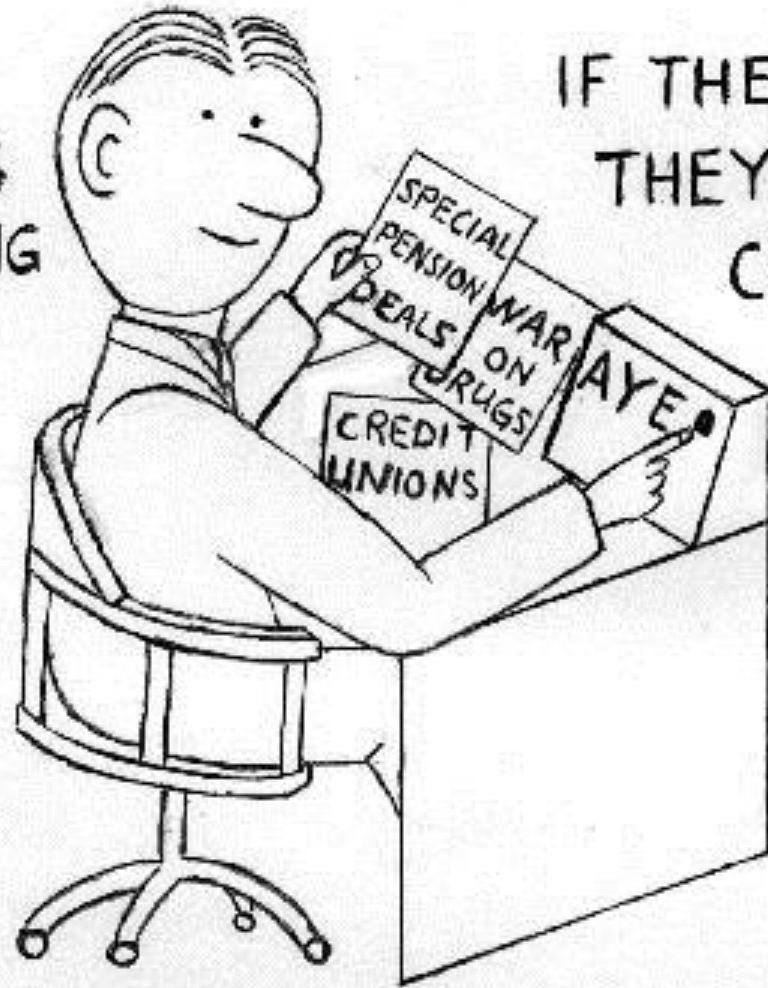
# The Simple Version



NO NEED TO  
READ THE BILLS  
BEFORE VOTING

IF THEY WEREN'T OK,  
THEY WOULDN'T HAVE  
COME OUT OF  
COMMITTEE

QUIET PLEASE  
LEGISLATURE  
IN SESSION



# On what do Congressmen base their vote?

- Own Beliefs
- Constituents Needs/Wants
- Colleagues' Opinions
- Pressure from Interest Groups/President
- Party Leadership





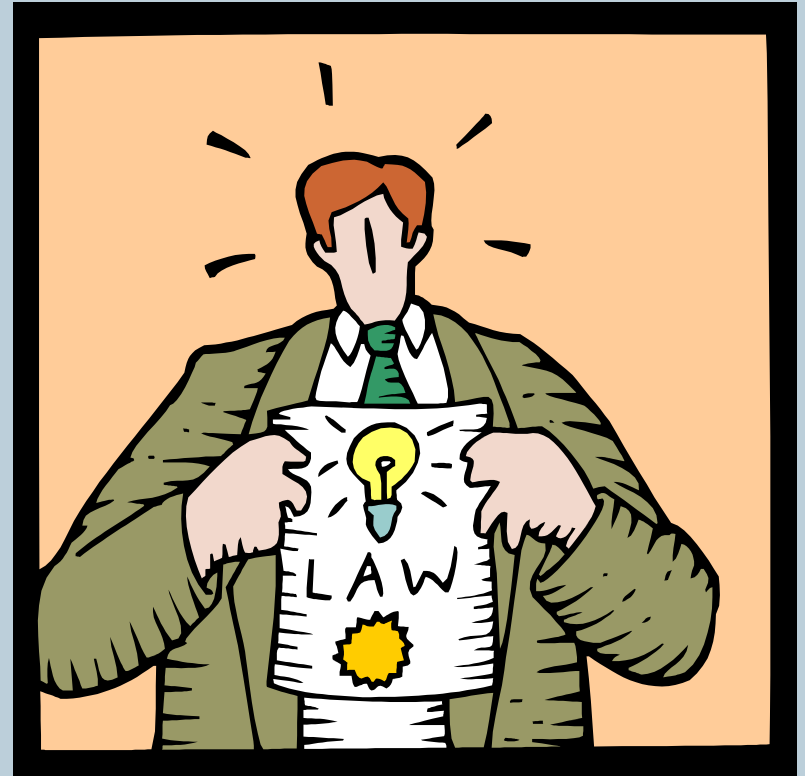
# So how do they vote?

–Trustee

–Delegate

–Partisan

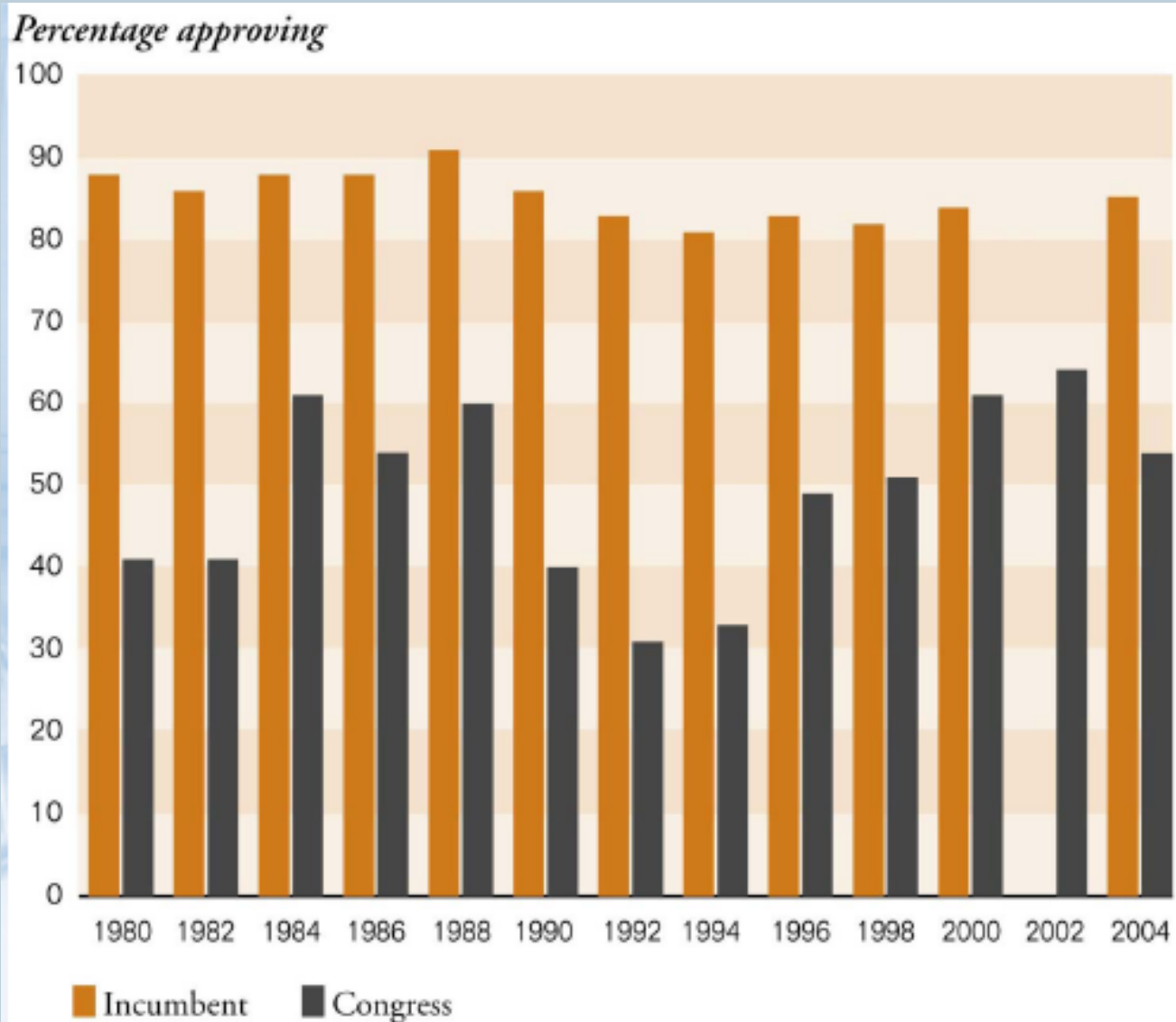
*Politico*



# Criticisms of Congress

- Inefficient
- Partisan
- Too Much Pork-Barreling
- Unethical
- Unrepresentative

# Dilemma



*Source:* American National Election Studies.

*Note:* Question about incumbent not asked in 2002.

# Powers of Congress (center of foldable)

- Tax
- Spend/Budget
- Regulate Commerce
- Declare War
- Eminent Domain
- Oversight
- Constitutional Amendments
- Impeachment

