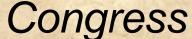
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# Magruder's American Government CHAPTER 10-1





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**SECTION 1** The National Legislature

**SECTION 2** The House of Representatives

SECTION 3 The Senate

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Chapter 10



# The National Legislature

- Why does the Constitution divide power between the two houses of Congress?
- What is a term of Congress?
- How have sessions of Congress changed over time?









### **Two Houses of Congress**

# The Constitution creates a bicameral legislature for three reasons:

**Historical:** The British Parliament consisted of two houses since the 1300s, and many colonial assemblies were similar in form.

**Practical:** A bicameral legislature was necessary to compromise the Virginia and New Jersey plans of representation.

**Theoretical:** The Framers favored a bicameral Congress in order that one house might act as a check on the other.









#### Terms

<u>A term is the length of time that</u> officials serve after an election, as in a two- or six-year term.

The date for the start of each new term has been set by the Twentieth Amendment (1933) as "noon of the 3d day of January" of every odd-numbered year.





1 2 3 4



### **Sessions of Congress**

# A session is the regular period of time during which Congress conducts business.

- Congress adjourns, or suspends until the next session, each regular session as it sees fit.
- If necessary, the President has the power to **prorogue**, or adjourn, a session, but only when the two houses cannot agree on a date for adjournment.
- Only the President may call Congress into a special session—a meeting to deal with some emergency situation.









## **Comparative Government: Legislative Bodies**

Leg	isl	ativ	/e	Bod	ies
		_			

C	ountry	Legislative Body	Houses if Bicameral	Number of Members	How Elected	Term of Office
Inited States	Congress	House of Representatives	435	Direct popular vote	2 years	
	United States	Congress	Senate	100	Direct popular vote	6 years
0	Costa Rica	Legislative Assembly		57	Direct popular vote	4 years
	France	Parlement	National Assembly	577	Direct popular vote	5 years
			Senate	321	Local electoral colleges	9 years
\$	Israel	Knesset		120	Direct popular vote	4 years
- Inner	Diat	House of Councillors	252	Direct popular vote	6 years	
	Japan	Diet	House of Representatives	500	Direct popular vote	4 years
	Saudi Arabia	Consultative Council		90	Appointed by the king	4 years



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