

Presentation Pro

Magruder's American Government

CHAPTER 10 - 1

Congress



Congress

SECTION 1 The National Legislature

SECTION 2 The House of Representatives

SECTION 3 The Senate

SECTION 4 The Members of Congress

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?



Go To
Section:

1

2

3

4

Chapter 10 Section 1

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.



Go To
Section:

1

2

3

4

Chapter 10, Section 1

Prentice
Hall

Terms

A **term** is the length of time that 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.



Go To
Section:

1

2

3

4

Chapter 10, Section 1

Prentice
Hall

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.



Go To
Section:

1

2


3

4

Chapter 10, Section 1

Prentice
Hall

Comparative Government: Legislative Bodies

Legislative Bodies					
Country	Legislative Body	Houses if Bicameral	Number of Members	How Elected	Term of Office
 United States	Congress	House of Representatives	435	Direct popular vote	2 years
		Senate	100	Direct popular vote	6 years
 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
 Japan	Diet	House of Councillors	252	Direct popular vote	6 years
		House of Representatives	500	Direct popular vote	4 years
 Saudi Arabia	Consultative Council		90	Appointed by the king	4 years



Go To Section:

1

2

3

4

Chapter 10, Section 1



Go To
Section:



Go To
Section:

1

2

3

4