

Government Overview

Frank Schneemann

English Parliamentary System

Queen
Figurehead

**House of
Commons**
Elected

*Real
Power*

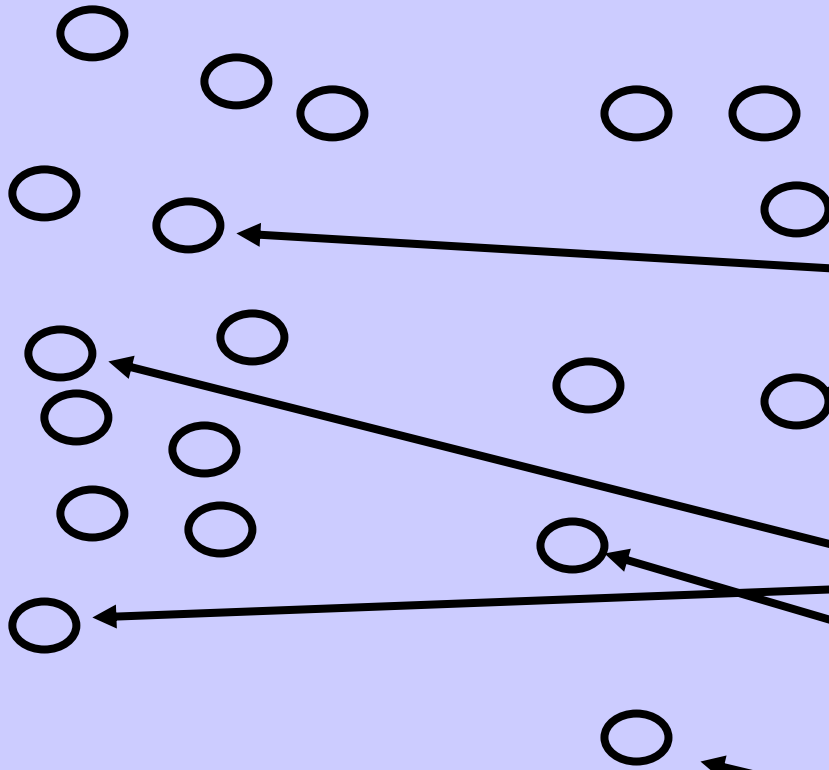
**House of
Lourdes**
Nobility

*Little real
Power*

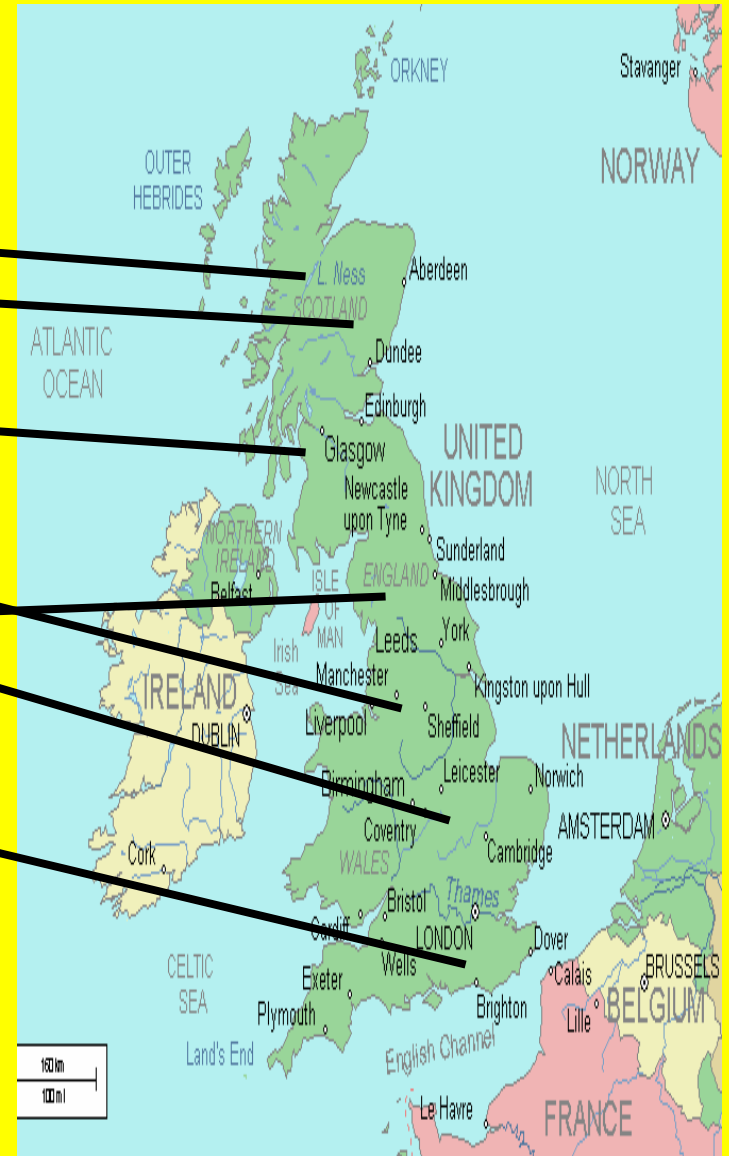
England is divided into parliamentary districts



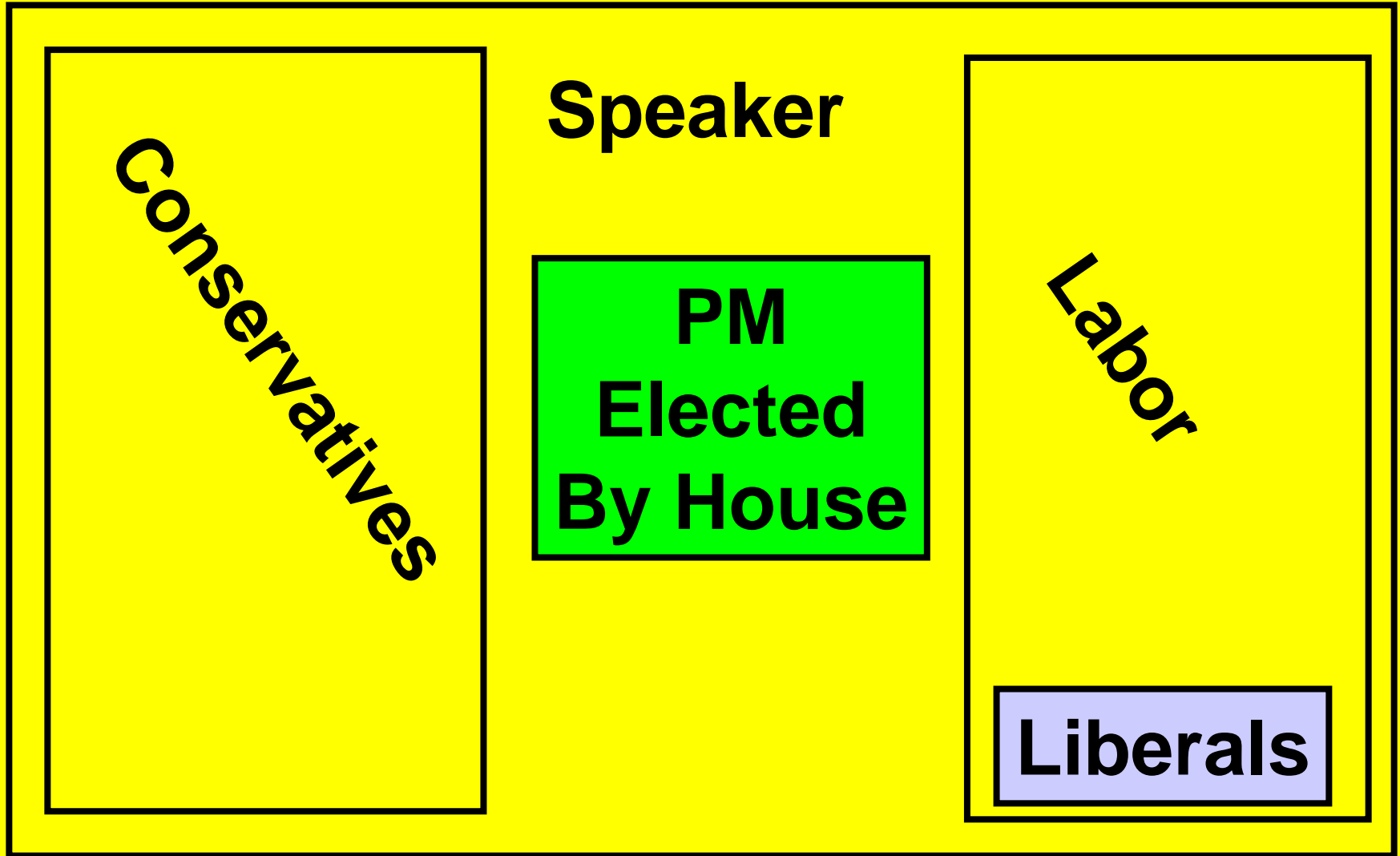
Parliament



**Members elected
from districts**



House of Commons



PM is Prime Minister like US President

During Revolutionary War we operated under the Articles of Confederation

- **States had ALL the power**
- **Some States had own money**
- **Tariffs between states**
- **U.S. seen as weak by European Countries**

- **James Madison got delegates from the colonies to go to Philadelphia to revise the Arts. Of Confederation**
- **The meeting was called the 2nd Continental Congress**
- **They met in same room where Declaration of Independence was signed**
- **Wrote a new constitution to replace the Articles of Confederation**

Constitution of the U.S.

- **Supreme law of the U.S.**
- **No law can supersede the Const.**
- **In U.S. Rule of law is supreme**
- **Says how the government will be organized**
- **3 Branches, all equal**

Constitution of the U.S.

- **7 Articles**
 - **Art I Congress**
 - **Art II President**
 - **Art III Supreme Court**
 - **Art IV Relations Among States**
 - **Art V Methods of Amendment**
 - **Art VI National Supremacy**
 - **Art VII Ratification**

3 Branches of Government

Congress
Legislative
Branch

President
Executive
Branch

Supreme
Court
Judicial
Branch

All Branches are equal

***Each Branch has different
responsibilities***

Responsibilities of each branch

Congress

**Legislative
Branch**

**Makes
Laws**

President

**Executive
Branch**

**Enforces
Laws**

**Supreme
Court**

**Judicial
Branch**

**Interprets
Laws**

Congress

House of Representatives

- States get reps based on their population
- 435 members
- Elected 2 years
- Members elect Speaker of Hse (powerful)

Senate

- Every State gets 2 Senators
- 100 members
- Elected 6 years
- VP is President of Senate (votes in ties)

How do they divide up the 435 members of the House of Reps?

- **Every 10 years they hold a census**
- **Percentage of total population of the U.S. = Percentage of 435 members**
- **Calif. Has 53 members in House**
- **Alaska has 1 member in the House (Every state is guaranteed at least 1)**

Congress

House of Representatives

- New House of reps elects Speaker
- The Speaker controls House
- Is 3rd in line to be President if Pres. & VP die

Senate

- The president of the Senate is the Vice President of U.S.
- Only votes in case of ties

Other Officers Congress

House of Representatives

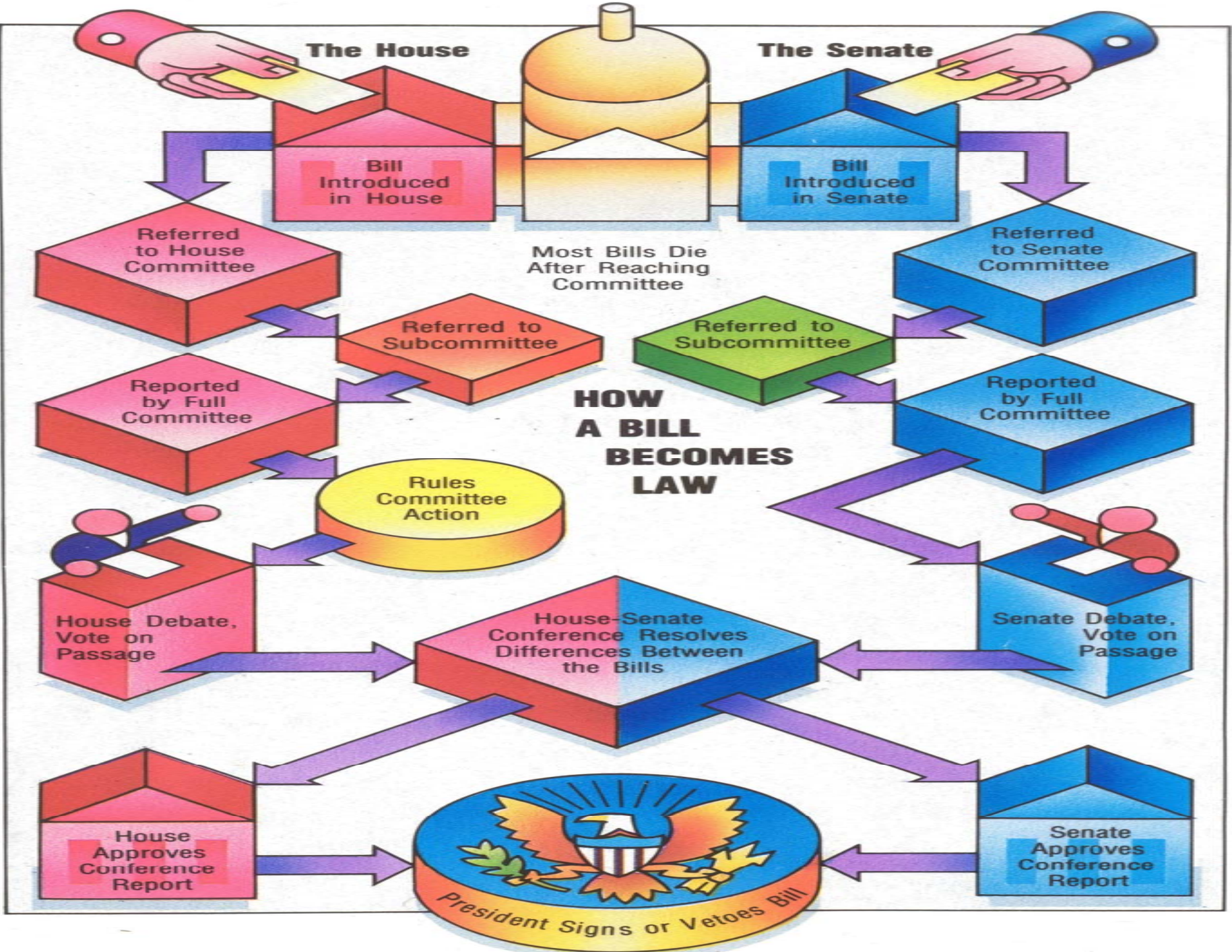
**Majority Leader
Majority Whip**

**Minority Leader
Minority Whip**

Senate

**Majority Leader
Majority Whip**

**Minority Leader
Minority Whip**



Executive Branch

President and Vice President

- **Serves 4 years**
- **Elected by the States using the Electoral College**
- **President enforces laws**
- **In charge of all government departments.**
- **Commander in Chief of Armed forces.**
- **Heads FBI, CIA, Justice, Defense etc**

What is the line of succession in the event the president dies?

Vice President

Speaker of the House

Secretary of State

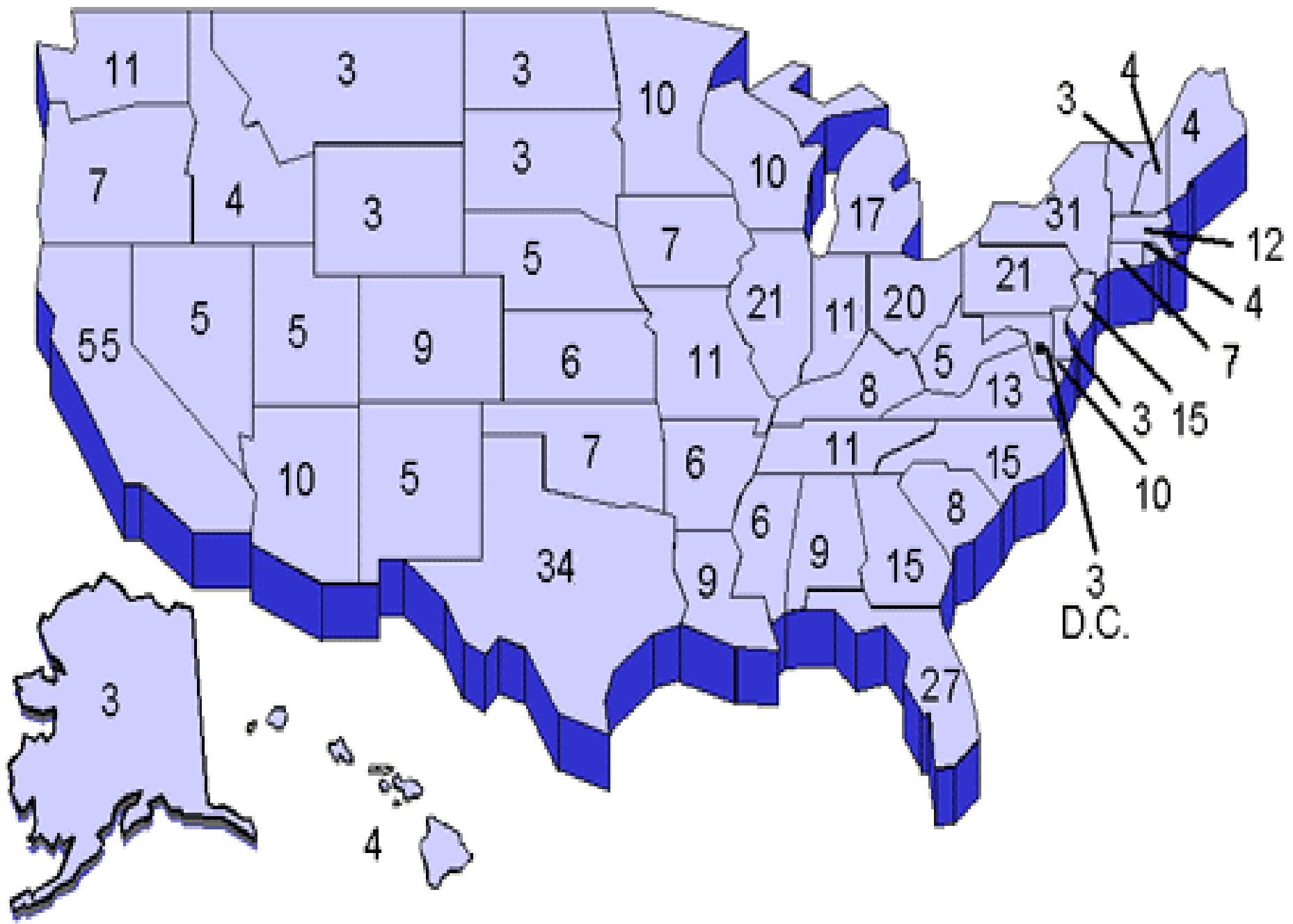
Other cabinet officials

Electoral College

- There are 538 electoral votes
- Number of Reps + Senators = States Electoral votes
- When you vote for President you are actually voting for electors
- Electors go to state capitals in January and that is when Pres is elected.
- Electors can vote for anyone

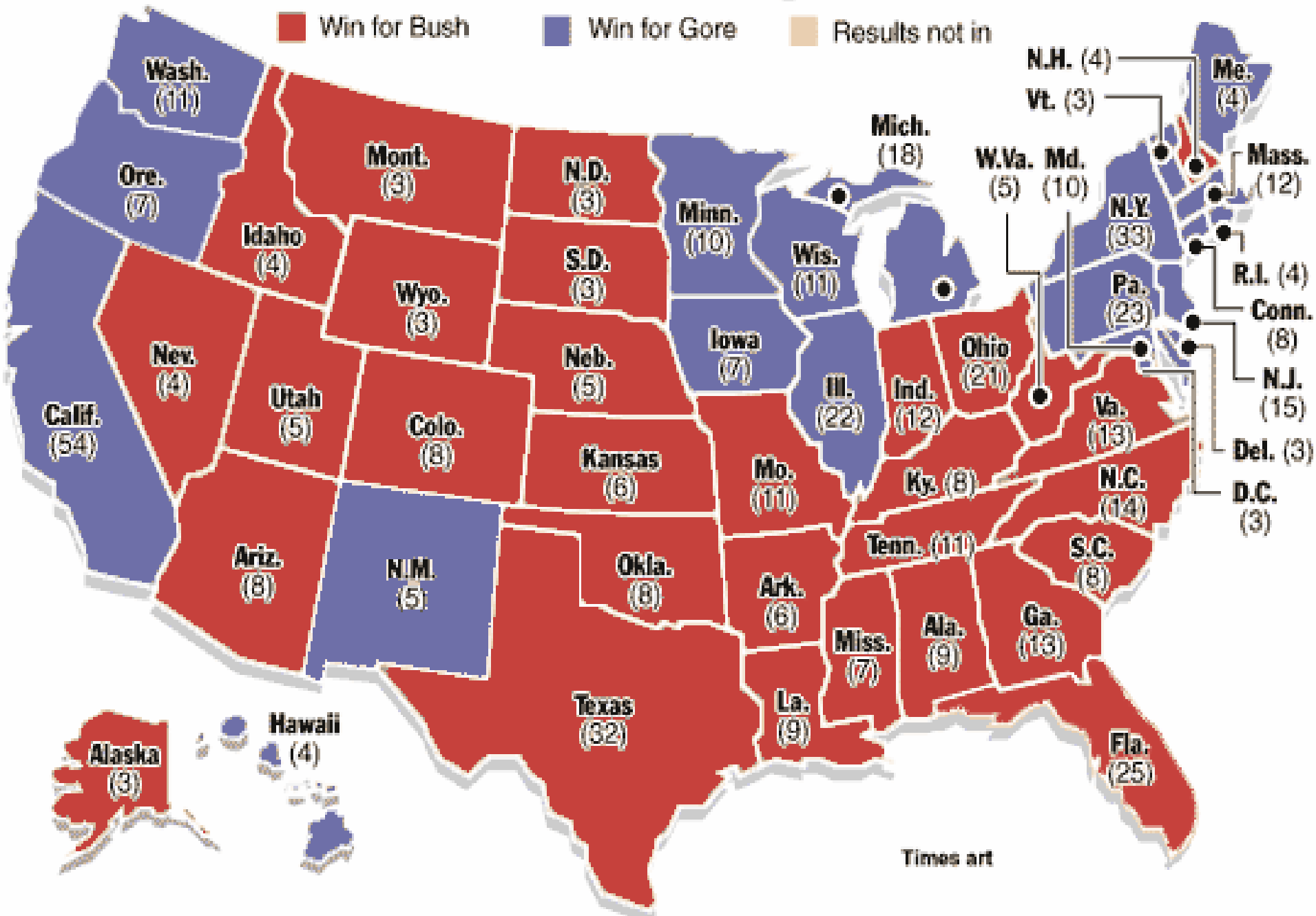
Electoral College Continued

- **Washington D.C. has 3 votes**
- **Must get 51% of 538 electoral votes to be elected Pres.**
- **270 Electoral votes to win**
- **If no one gets 51% of Vote**
- **House elects President**
- **Senate elects Vice President**
- **House and Senate can elect anyone they want**



Electoral College

Win for Bush Win for Gore Results not in



Times art

Supreme Court

9 members
Appointed for life

President Appoints
Senate must approve

Court interprets laws and says if
they are constitutional or not.

Major Parties in the U.S.

Republicans

Democrats

Minor Parties in the U.S.

Libertarian

Green Party

Socialist Workers (communist)

Many more.....

**Good Luck
on the Quiz**

