1. **CONGRESS**

2. **THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS**
   - Powers defined in Article I of Constitution
   - Senate and House of Representatives
   - Governing bodies meet in Washington D.C.
   - Crafts legislation that sets out a sound national policy for the benefit of U.S. citizens.
   - Creates statutes, or laws, that become part of the U.S. Code.
   - 535 members and roughly 30,000 support staff

3. **THE FRAMERS’ PLAN**
   - Legislature that would be responsive to the people as a whole while also responsive to the states.
   - Framers wanted the most democratic branch to dominate policymaking.

4. **BICAMERALISM**
   - Resulting from the dispute between small and large states, The Great Compromise, dictated the number of House seats allotted based on population.
   - Article I's provision for a census every 10 years assured states an allotment of these seats proportionally.
   - States would send the same number of delegates, two, to the Senate.

5. **UNIQUE HOUSES**
   - The Framers designed each house to have unique character and separate responsibilities.
     - House of Representatives: Reflect the people
     - Senate: Made up of members of state legislature
   - Senators separated from public opinion by their longer terms, and more constitutional responsibilities than members of the House.
   - House members often have more intimate constituent-representative relationship.

6. **CHECKS ON LAWMAKING WITHIN CONGRESS**
Congress has two chambers that must approve legislation helps prevent that passage of rash laws. It doubles the people's scrutiny by requiring the concurrence of two distinct bodies.

7 □ POWERS
- House of Representatives: Have sole power to impeach. Have priority of tax law.
- Senate: Have advice and consent power on presidential appointments. Judge impeachments and can remove officials.

8 □ THE HOUSE
- Designed to reflect the will of the people and to prevent the kinds of abuses of power experienced in the colonial era,
- Has the power to impeach federal officers, create revenue laws, and the privilege to select the president if no candidate wins the Electoral College.

9 □ SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
- The Speaker recognizes members for speaking, organizes members for conference committees, and has a great influence in most matters of lawmaking.

NANCY PELOSI IS THE CURRENT SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

10 □ SPEAKERS THOMAS REED AND JOSEPH CANNON
- Two autocratic speakers of the house.
- One colleague said Reed had a "tongue that at one stroke sliced whiskers off his opponents' faces."

"FOUL MOUTHED JOE" WAS A BRAZEN MAN WHO CONSTANTLY CHEWED A CIGAR AND USED INDECENT LANGUAGE.

11 □ REFORMING THE SPEAKER ROLE
- The Speaker's role was changed when a combination of
Democrats and progressive Republicans proposed rules changes. The new proposal increased the size of the Rules Committee and mandated the entire House, not the Speaker, would select the committee and its chairman.

12 HOUSE FLOOR LEADERS
- On the next rung down in the House are the majority and minority leaders.
- Lead debate among their party and guide the discussion from their side of the aisle.
- They are the first recognized in debate.
- Party leaders have also become spokespersons for the party in press conferences and in interviews on Sunday talk shows.
- <-------- Republican leader Kevin McCarthy (CA) and Democratic leader Steny Hoyer (MD).

13 HOUSE WHIPS
- The deputy floor leaders, also known as the whip, is in charge of the party discipline.
- The whip keeps the tally of votes among his or her party numbers, which aids in determining the optimum time for a vote.
- Can strong-arm party members to vote with the party in return for political favors or party support in elections.
- When scandals or missteps occur, the whip may ask a member to step down from a chair position or leave Congress entirely.
- <-----Dem. Jim Clyburn (SC) and Rep. Steve Scalise (LA)

14 THE SENATE
- Six year terms allows Senators reprieve from popular ideas adopted by the House.
- Has elevated and additional responsibilities.
- Its advice and consent power allows Senator to recommend or reject executive branch appointees.
- Ratifies international treaties and it is the ultimate judge on removing impeached officials.

15 17TH AMENDMENT (1913)
- Switched election of Senators from state legislatures to popular
vote

- Fundamentally transformed the Senate.
- Senators were no longer held to the whims of a hundred or so state legislators, but to the voting citizens of the states instead.
- Provided a staff that grew from one assistant to several.

16 □ THE SENATE: "THE WORLD'S GREATEST DELIBERATIVE BODY"
- The Framers wanted a cautious, experienced group to handle foreign affairs and presidential appointments.
- One-third of the Senate is up for re-election every two years, making it a continuous body.
- Fewer rules and restrictions on what members can do.
- Debate can go much longer.

17 □ THE SENATE: "THE WORLD'S GREATEST DELIBERATIVE BODY"
- High thresholds for action and that slow it down
  - Unanimous consent: Must have approval of all Senators
  - Filibuster - a lengthy speech to delay action on a bill
  - Was abused which led to the creation of Rule 22 (Cloture Rule) in 1917
    - Originally required a two-thirds supermajority to close up or stop debate on a bill and call for a vote.
    - In 1975, the Senate lowered the standard to three fifths (60 out of 100)

18 □ SENATE LEADERS: VICE PRESIDENT AND "PRO TEM"
- Vice President of the U.S. is the nonvoting President of the Senate. In case of a tie the VP can vote.
- The VP is rarely in the Senate chamber and usually delegates the responsibility of moderating debate to other members.
- The Constitution also provided for the president pro tempore, or temporary president. The "pro tem" is traditionally the most senior member in the majority party.
- President Pro Tempore Chuck Grassley (IA)
19 □ SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
- Wields more power than in the Senate than the vice president and pro temp.
- The chief legislator.
- First recognized in debate and sets the legislative calendar which determines the bills that get to the floor and which ones do not.
- Guides the party caucus on issues and party proposals.
- Currently: Mitch McConnell (KY)

20 □ MINORITY LEADER
- Serves as the senior official for the minority party in the Senate
- Works with that party to determine their positions
- Currently Chuck Schumer (NY)

21 □ SENATE WHIPS
- Much like the House whips.
- Keep a tally of party members' voting intentions and try to maintain party discipline.
- Currently: Majority Whip: John Thune (SD) and Minority Whip: Dick Durbin (IL) >

22 □ INCONSISTENT LEADERSHIP
- In the House, competing leadership made for unharmonious transition.
- Clinton Impeachment

23 □ OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO THE STRUCTURE OF CONGRESS

24 □ CAUCUSES
- The formal, nongovernmental groups of like-minded people organized in Congress.
- Small caucuses are organized around specific interests, even some cross party lines, such as agriculture, business, or women's issues.
- Caucuses cannot create law, but can work to enhance the chances of passing their desired policies.

25 □ TELEVISION
In the 1950s, Congress, its outspoken leaders, and its committee function were ushered into living rooms across the country. The growth of the television medium coincided with the professionalization of Congress. The Framers intended for lawmakers to serve a few years, but many congressional serve tenure stretched to 20 to 30 years. Salaries quadrupled from 1947 to 1970. Members of both house began to take advantage of the lack of term limits, and began to appear on television regularly as a campaign and fund-raising tool.

**MINORITY MEMBERS**

Some African Americans served in Congress during Reconstruction but with the rise of Jim Crow that number dropped. The first female was elected to the House in 1916. The women's and civil rights movement after World War II challenged Congress' traditionally elite stature. There are currently 25 women serving in the Senate marking the first time a quarter of the upper body was female. There are 102 women in the House. There are currently 56 African American members of the House and 3 members of the Senate.

**MEMBERSHIP OF CONGRESS**

535 members with nonvoting House delegates from Washington D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. Most members are men, college educated, and from household with above-average incomes. More than half of Congress members have a net worth of over $1 million. Average age in the House is 57 and 62 in the Senate. Dominant professions are prior public servants, law, and business.

**CONGRESS' IMAGE**

Americans generally view Congress negatively and give low approval ratings. Yet most individual members of Congress enjoy about 60 percent
approval rating from their constituency.
- Over 90 percent of incumbents who seek reelection win their seats.
- The average tenure in the House is 9.1 years and Senators serve on average 10.2 years.

29 □ STAFFERS AND CAPITOL HILL
- Today each senator employs an average of 40 staffers, and each House member has about 17.
- Some of these assistants answer constituents’ phone calls from a district office.
- Most swarm Capitol Hill in a complex network that supports the legislative process.

30 □ AN OVERWORKED CONGRESS