



# THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government/legislative-branch>



# What is the Legislative Branch?

- The Legislative Branch of our Federal government is called Congress
- The Legislative Branch is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives
- The Legislative Branch is one of our three branches of Government
- The three branches of government are the Legislative, the Judicial, and the Executive



<http://www.freedomspooks.com/officials/by-branch/us-legislative>

# The Executive Branch

- The Job of the Executive branch is to make sure that the laws of the United States are being followed
- The leader of the Executive branch is our President (Barack Obama) →
- Our Vice President (Joe Biden) along



<http://blogs.villagevoice.com>



with cabinet members,  
(cabinet members are  
administers that help the president)

<http://www.m1sapphire.com>

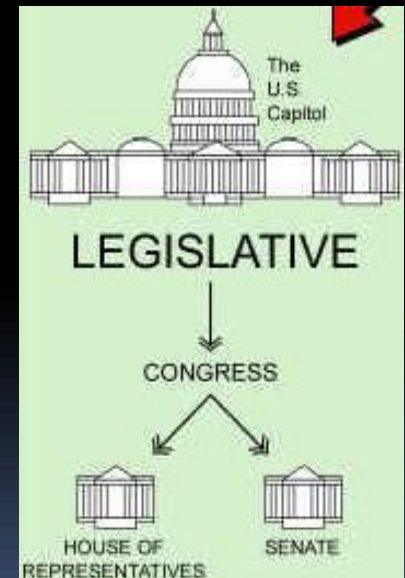
# The Judicial Branch

- The Judicial Branch is made of courts and judges
- These courts decide if the laws disobey the constitution.
- They also discuss the meaning of laws and how they are used
- The Supreme Court is the highest of all courts



# The Main Function Of the Legislative Branch


- The jobs of the Senate and the House of Representatives are to write, debate, pass bills, and to send them off to the President for approval or veto
- Their major job is to make our country's laws
- But they also pass laws, organize trade and money, impeach federal officers, and declare war.



<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/branches.html>



# Meetings

- The Legislative Branch meets in different chambers on opposite sides of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.
  - The meetings begin on the third day of January, every odd numbered year
  - The name of the record of the meeting of Congress is called the Congressional Record
  - The meetings last two years with a break during the summer
  - The Congress makes its own rules governing its meetings
  - They are allowed to remove a member by two thirds vote
  - That means that two thirds of the members have to agree to an action
- 

# Representatives

- There are 435 Representatives in the house
- Here are the Representatives in Wisconsin



Tammy  
Baldwin



Ronald  
Kind



David  
Obey



Thomas  
Petri



Paul  
Ryan



James  
Sensenbrenner



Gwen Moore

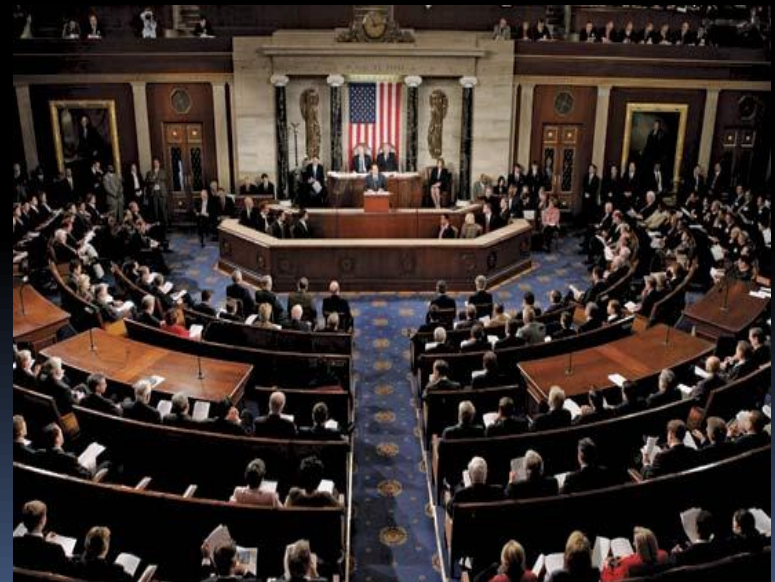


Steve  
Kagen

# Qualifications for Representative

- The qualifications to be a Representative are....
  - You must be 25 years old
  - Must be a citizen of the United States for at least seven years
  - You must live in the state where you were elected

The Representative chamber





# Terms for House

- The term of office for a representative is two years
- If they want to stay in office, he or she must be reelected every two years



# Presiding officer

- The presiding officer is The Speaker of the House
- The speaker is chosen by the house members and is usually a member of the majority party
- If there was an emergency The Speaker of House is second in line for presidency , after the Vice President
- Nancy Pelosi is our Speaker of House
- Nancy is a democrat
- She is the first woman in history to hold the position of Speaker of House



# Senators

- Our total number of Senators in the United States is 100 members (two per each state)
- Our Senators here in Wisconsin are



Russ Feingold



Herb Kohl

# Qualifications for Senator

- The qualifications to be a senator are.....
  - You have to be at least 30 years old
  - You have to be a citizen of the U.S for at least 9 years
  - You must live in the state you represent

The Senate chamber



# Term for Senate

- The term of office for Senate is six years
- Every two years one third of the senate is up for reelection
- They do it this way because then there is never an entirely new group of senators, there will be some old experienced ones to teach and guide the new ones



# Presiding Officers

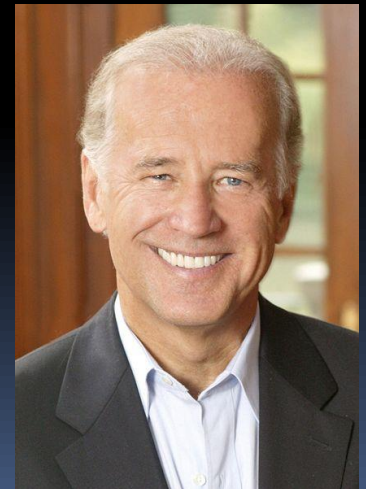
- The two presiding officers of the Senate are the Vice President and President Pro Tempore ( temporary president)
- The job of the Vice President is to be in charge of the meeting of Senate
- The Vice President can only vote in the event if there is a tie between the Senators
- If the vice president is not there, the senators choose the other presiding officer, the President Pro Tempore
- The President Pro Tempore is third in line to take over presidency in an emergency
- Our current President Pro Tempore is Daniel K. Inouye (on left)
- Daniel is a democratic senator from Hawaii
- Our current Vice President is Joe Biden (on right)
- Joe is a democratic senator from Delaware

Daniel K. Inouye



<http://www.originaldissent.com>


Joe Biden



<http://tvoneblogs.com>

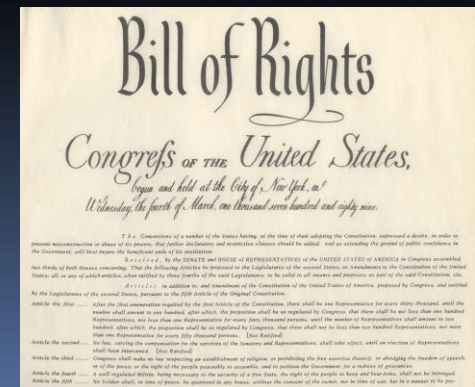


# Impeachment

- To impeach means to accuse an official of some wrongdoing or misuse of power
  - The House starts the process by accusing the official, but the trial is carried out by the Senate
  - The Senate acts as the jury
  - When the House of Representatives accuses an official of a crime, the Senate decides whether or not the official is guilty.
  - Two thirds of the senators there must find the official guilty in order to get rid of him or her from office
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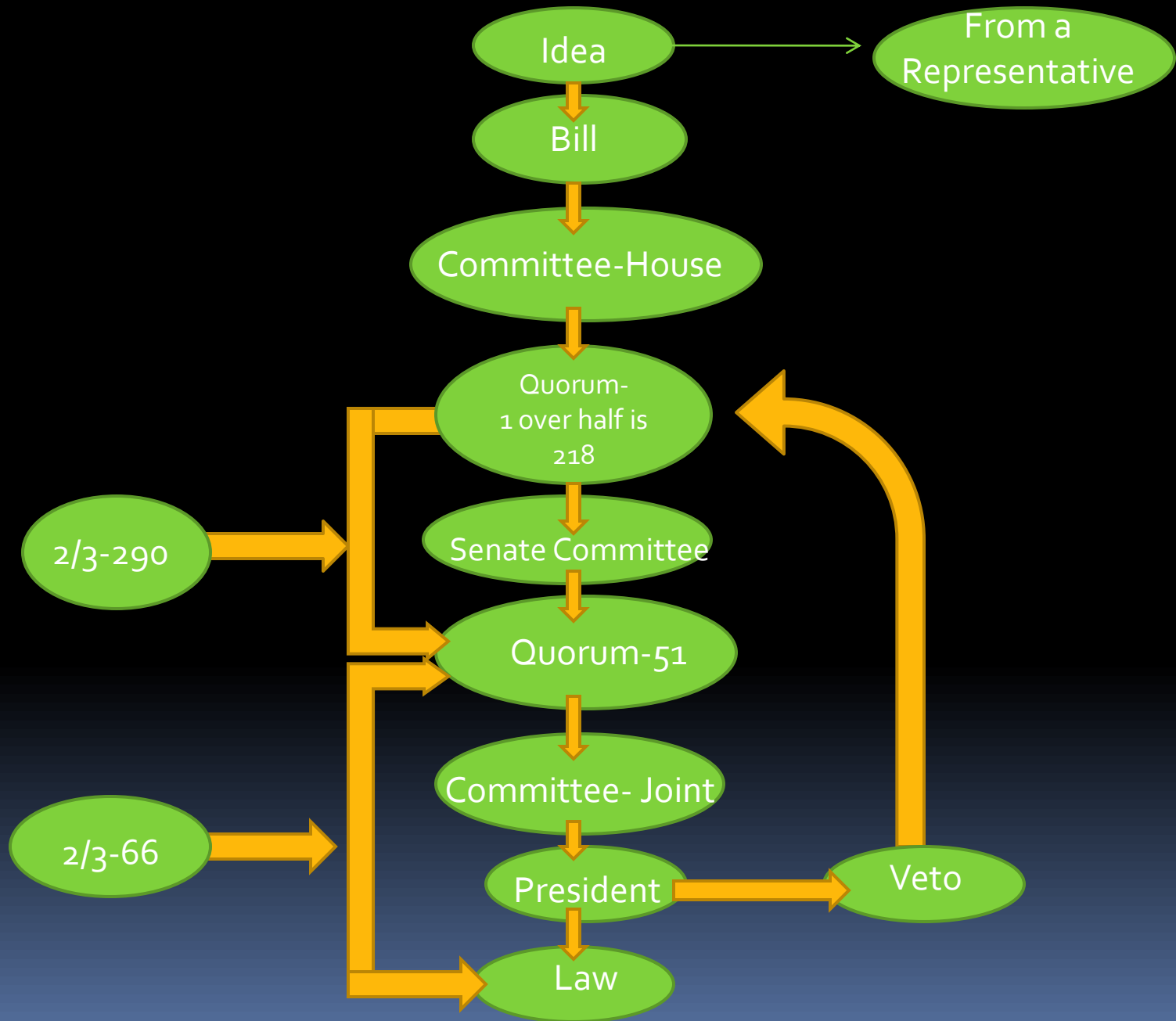
# What is a Bill

- Before a law is a law, it is called a bill
- A bill is an idea that a representative or a senator have and they want it to become a law
- A bill could either start in the House or Senate, if it has to do with money it starts in the House






# How a Bill Becomes a Law





# The 4 Powers Given to Congress

1. The power to tax- the power to charge taxes on goods and services
  2. The power to borrow money- If the U.S. needs money and doesn't have time to or can afford to collect it, Congress can borrow the money for a short term of time (Example: for a war)
  3. The power to regulate commerce-to regulate trade
  4. The power to naturalization -the process in which one can become a United States citizen
- 




# The Limits on Congress

1. The Constitution told the Congress it could make any laws banning the slave trade until 1808
2. Habeas corpus (you shall have the body) allows a person to be seen and heard in a court room by a judge
3. Congress cannot pass ex post facto laws. An ex post facto law is when people are punished for a crime that was not a crime when they did it
4. Congress cannot issue titles of nobility- That means that the Senate or the House cannot make people knights, lords, or duchesses
5. Government money can only be spent by passing a law-you can spend money before passing a law



# Powers of Government

- Delegated- Are powers given to the national government in Washington D.C. ( like the power to declare war)
  - Concurrent-Are powers that are shared between the national and state governments (such as the power to tax)
  - Reserved-Are powers that only the states have (such as the power to create a school system)
- 


# Would I Ever Want to Be a Member of This Branch?

- I think it would be exciting to be a part of the Legislative Branch because you get a part in helping to make laws to help our community
- It would be difficult because you would have to worry about your bills being passed, and you might get voted down a lot






# Changes I Would Make

- Laws that I would change in the United States are....
    - That as long as you pass your driving test and you are tall enough to see over the steering wheel you can drive at any age- because I want to drive
    - They should make illegal immigrants leave our country after a certain amount of time-because illegal immigrants should have to have a visa (an invite from someone in a different country) if they want to stay here more than 30 days
- 



# The Branch Verses My Life

- This branch impacts my life because things would be crazy if there wasn't any laws
  - The Legislative Branch keeps me safe by making laws that protect us
  - The Legislative Branch is important because it makes our countries laws, it organizes trade and money, it impeaches federal officers, and declares war.
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# The End

- Thanks for watching my power point
- Remember this is only some of the stuff about our government here in the United States
- If you have any questions or you want to learn more , send me an E-mail

