

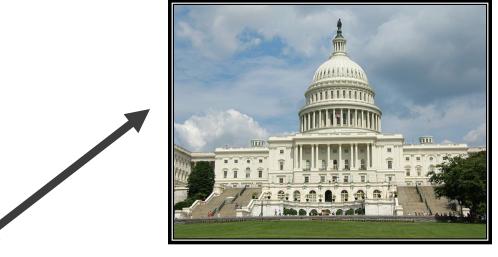
The United States Congress in a Separated Powers System

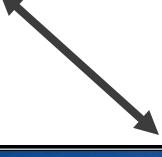
IFLAPARL 2016 Pre-Conference

Christopher M. Davis & Valerie Heitshusen Legislative & Budget Process Section Congressional Research Service

August 10, 2016

Separation of Powers / Checks and Balances











Bicameralism

House and Senate:

co-equal role in generation and consideration of policy proposals

Senate: handles treaties and executive nominations



House: originates revenue bills

House of Representatives

435 Representatives with 2-yr terms, elected (from districts) based on population

Party Leaders

Majority Leader Speaker of the House¹

Minority Leader

Committees

Agriculture **Appropriations Armed Services Budget** Education and the Workforce **Energy and Commerce Ethics Financial Services** Foreign Affairs **Homeland Security** House Administration Intelligence Judiciary **Natural Resources** Oversight and Government Reform Rules Science, Space, and Technology

Small Business

Transportation and Infrastructure

Veterans' Affairs

Ways and Means

Joint Committees³

U.S. Congress

Economic Library Taxation Printing

Senate

100 Senators with 6-yr overlapping terms, elected from states (2 per state)

Presiding Officer²

Party Leaders

Majority Leader

Minority Leader

Committees

Aging

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Appropriations

Armed Services

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Budget

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Energy and Natural Resources

Environment and Public Works

Ethics

Finance

Foreign Relations

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Indian Affairs

Intelligence

Judiciary

Rules and Administration

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Veterans' Affairs

³Joint committees are advisory or administrative in nature and do not consider legislation.

¹The Speaker is both the chamber's presiding officer and the top party leader for the majority.

²The Senate President pro tempore (or his designee) typically presides over the Senate. but he is not the leader of the majority party.