## What is the Legislative Branch?





Colonists put great stock in representative assemblies when they began to form government

The legislative branch would be placed in Checks & Balances to watch the Federal Government & give power to the States

# Congress: The Job Members of both houses (House & Senate) fulfill 5 major roles 1. Legislators 2. Representatives of their Constituents 3. Committee Members 4. Servants of their Constituents 5. Politicians

### Representatives of the People

Senators & Representatives are to "represent" & speak for their people.

**Delegates-** These are agents of the people who elected them.

Most experts will say that a growing number of legislators adhere to the delegate model. Due to accurate polling data

### **Committees**

**Bills-** Proposed laws, are proposed by committees

To decide measures, they go to

floor consideration- be acted upon by the full House or Senate

Oversight Function- The Process by which Congress checks to see that the executive branch are following policies.

### Terms & Sessions

Term- Number of years a person can serve in office.

The Senate & the House serve for 2 years unless re-elected.

A Session of Congress is the period of time during a year that Congress assembles & conducts business.

**Convenes-** To begin a new session of Congress

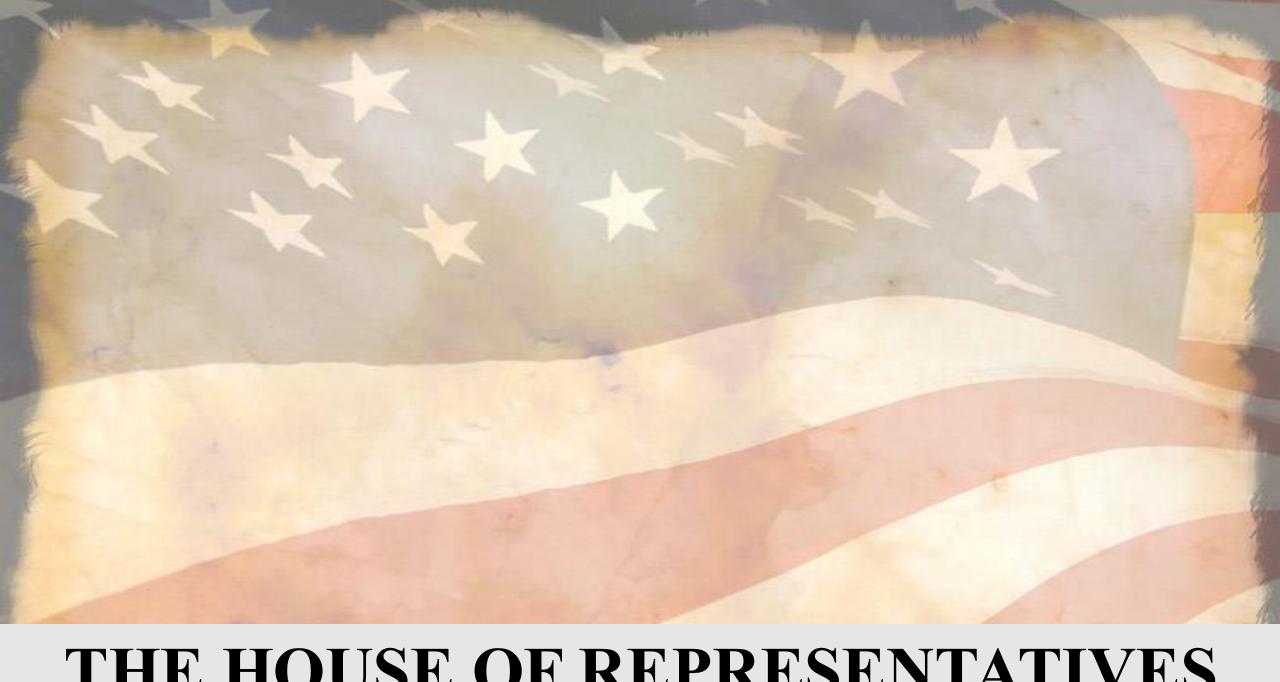
### **More About Terms**

Congress will adjourn, suspend until its next session, usually for short breaks

They will also do recess, taking short suspensions during a session. Neither can leave without the others say so.

Prorogue- The President can adjourn a session.

Special Session- An emergency meeting to decide important factors, a year long Congress has limited the need for these



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### The House of Representatives

The House is apportioned seats, number given, on the basis of their population

Representatives are chosen every 2 years for two year terms.

The house goes through reapportion, reevaluation of the seats, every 10 years with a Census

There are currently 435 seats in the House of Representatives

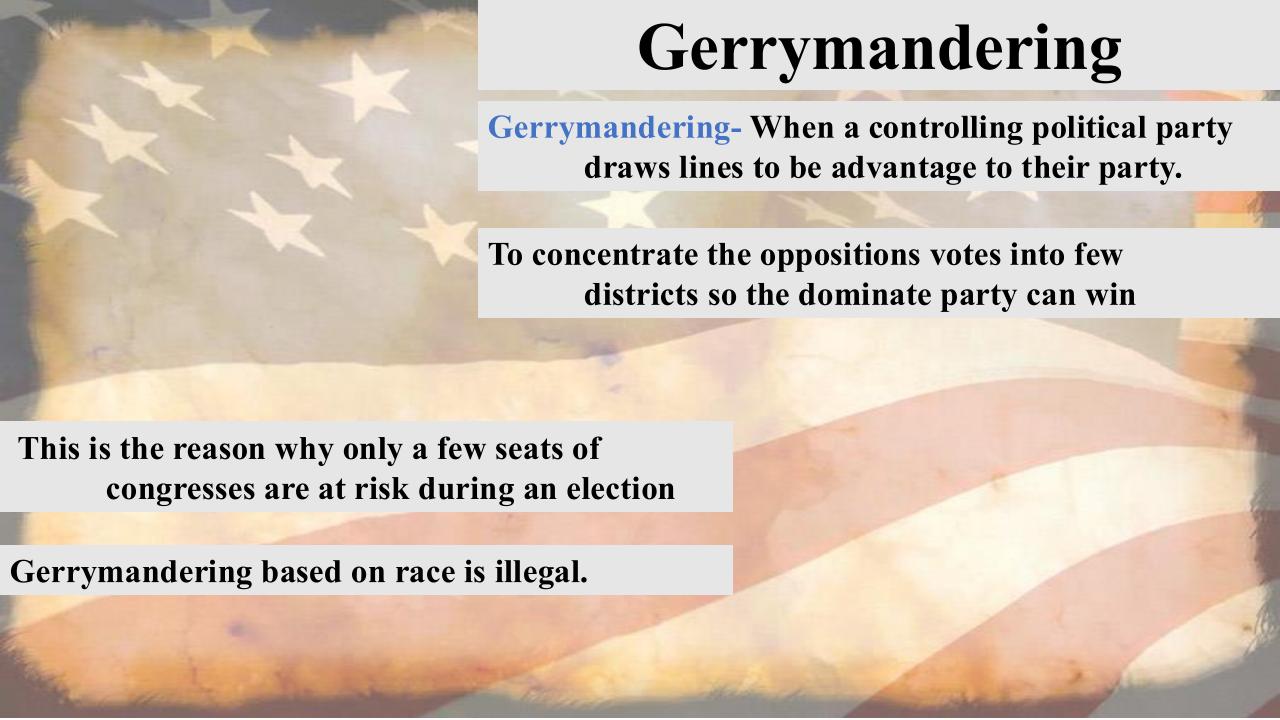
### Reapportionment Act of 1929 How big is Congress? 1. The number is 435 unless Congress votes to change the number in the future. 2. After every Census, the Census Bureau determines the number of seats each State should have 3. When the plan is ready, the President sends it to Congress 4. Within 60 days, if not rejected, it becomes effective.

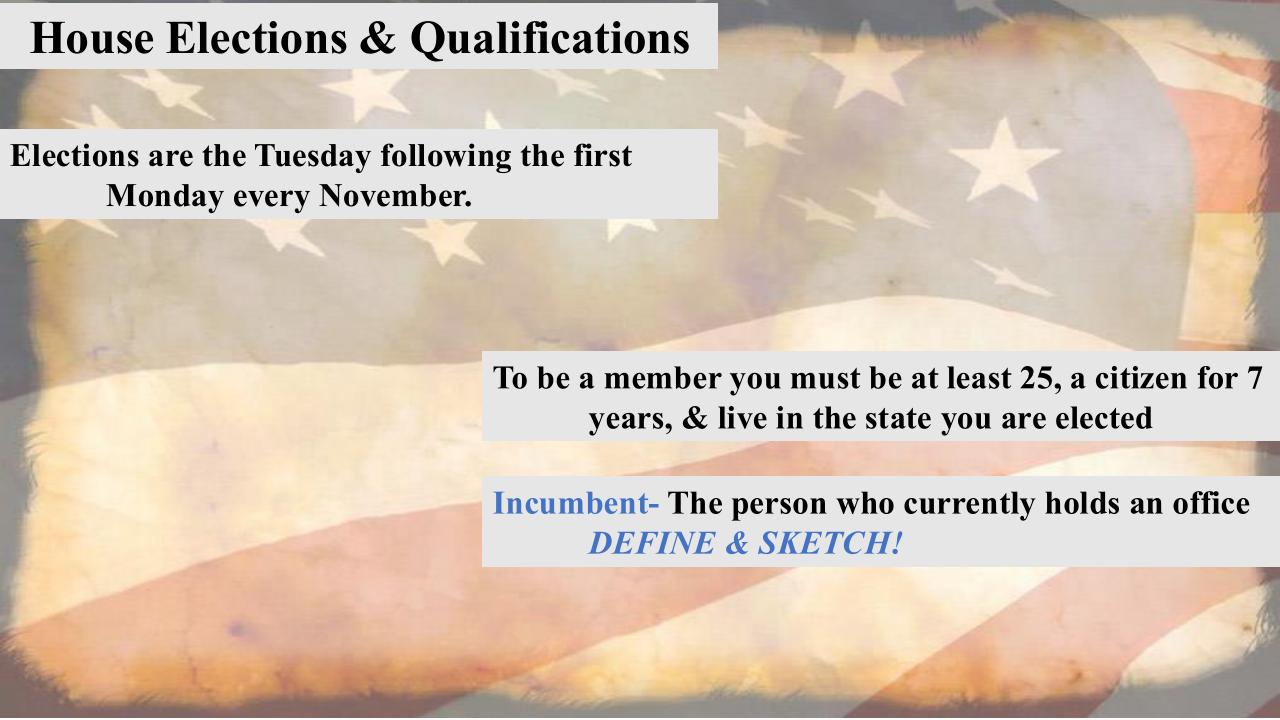
### Districting

States can elect a representative by single-member district basis, voters in each district vote among a field of candidates from that district.

If a State uses general elections seats are filled atlarge, elected from the State as a whole, rather than districts

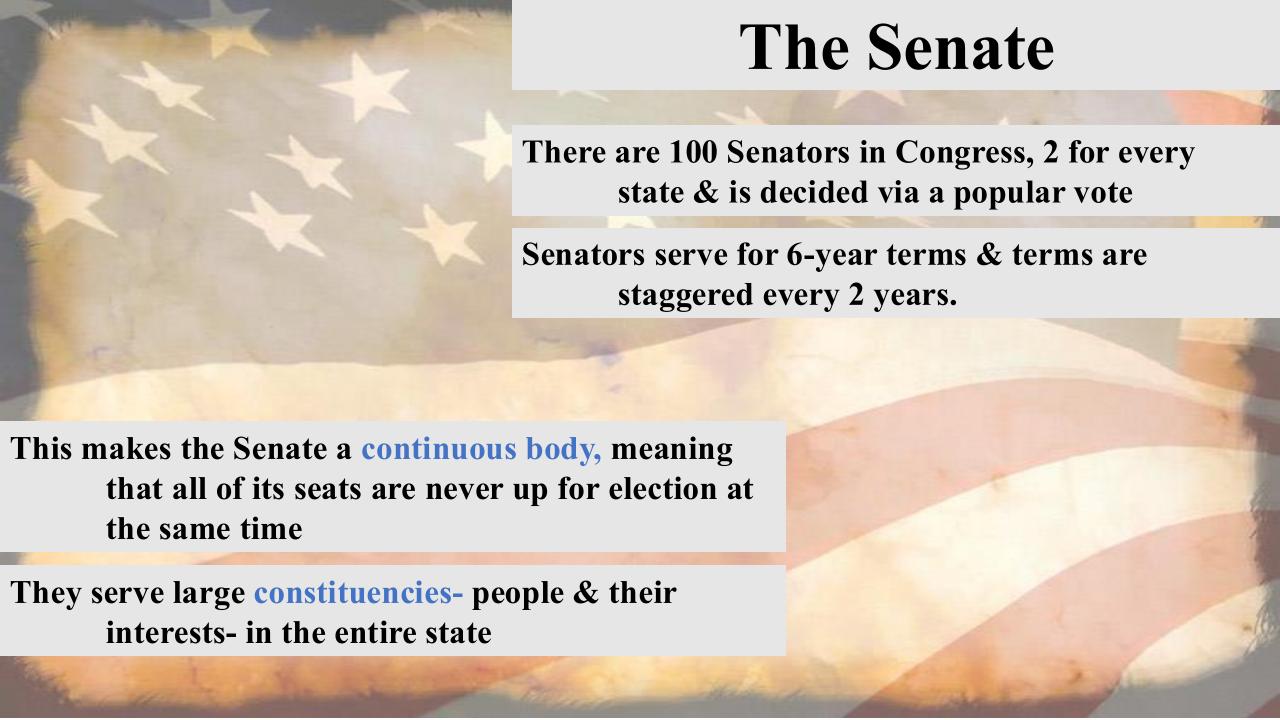
Congress will draw district lines based around population

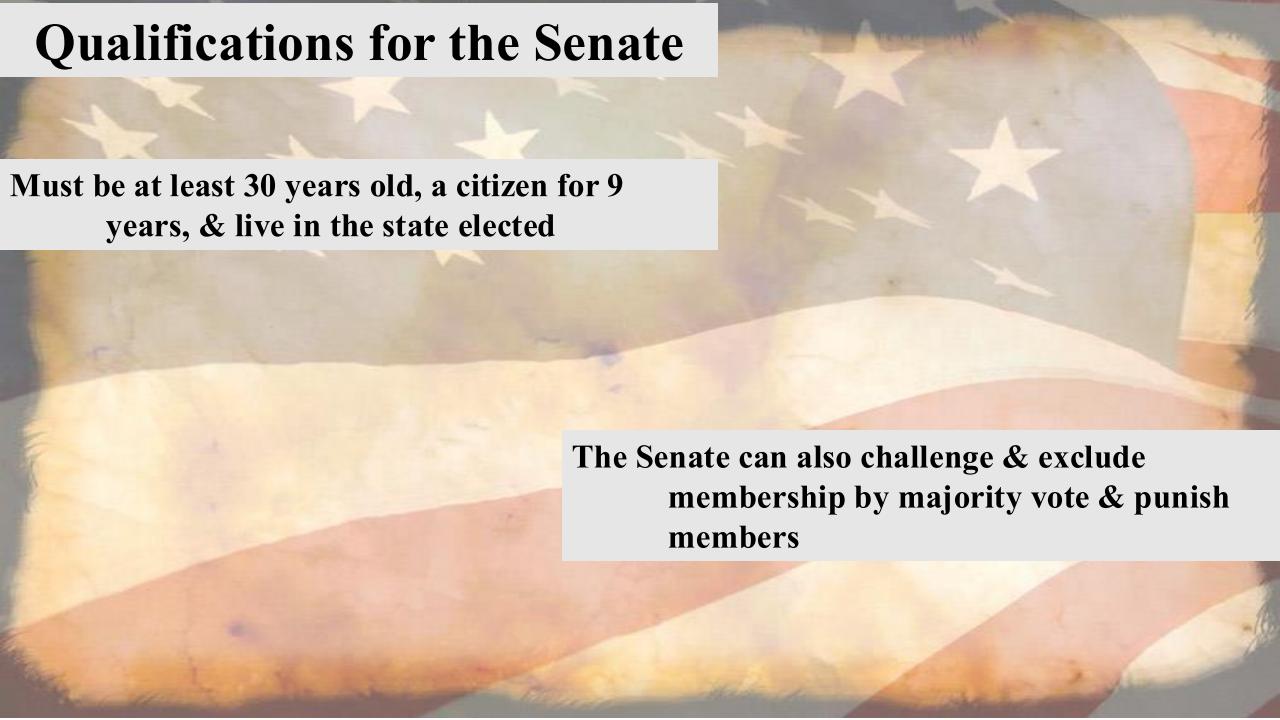






### THE SENATE





### **Delegated Powers**

**Delegated Powers-** Powers granted & given by the Constitution

These are split up in 3 ways!

**Expressed Powers-** Explicitly in its specific wording

Implied Powers- Reasonable deduction from the expressed powers

**Inherent Powers-** National Government for the United States



Necessary & Proper Clause- This is the clause that allows Congress expressed powers

The consensus, general agreement, is that Americans agree with broader power rather than a narrow reading of the constitution

So lets talk powers!



#### **Expressed Powers**

Commerce Power- The power of Congress to regulate interstate & foreign trade.

Money Powers- This gives Congress the power to tax, borrow, establish laws on bankruptcy, & coin money

Tax- A charge levied by government on person or property to raise money to meet public needs

These are investments in the country!

Eminent Domain- The inherent power to take private power for public use.

**DEFINE & SKETCH** 

Government can take land for public use, with proper notice to owner, & for a fair price

### **Expressed Powers**

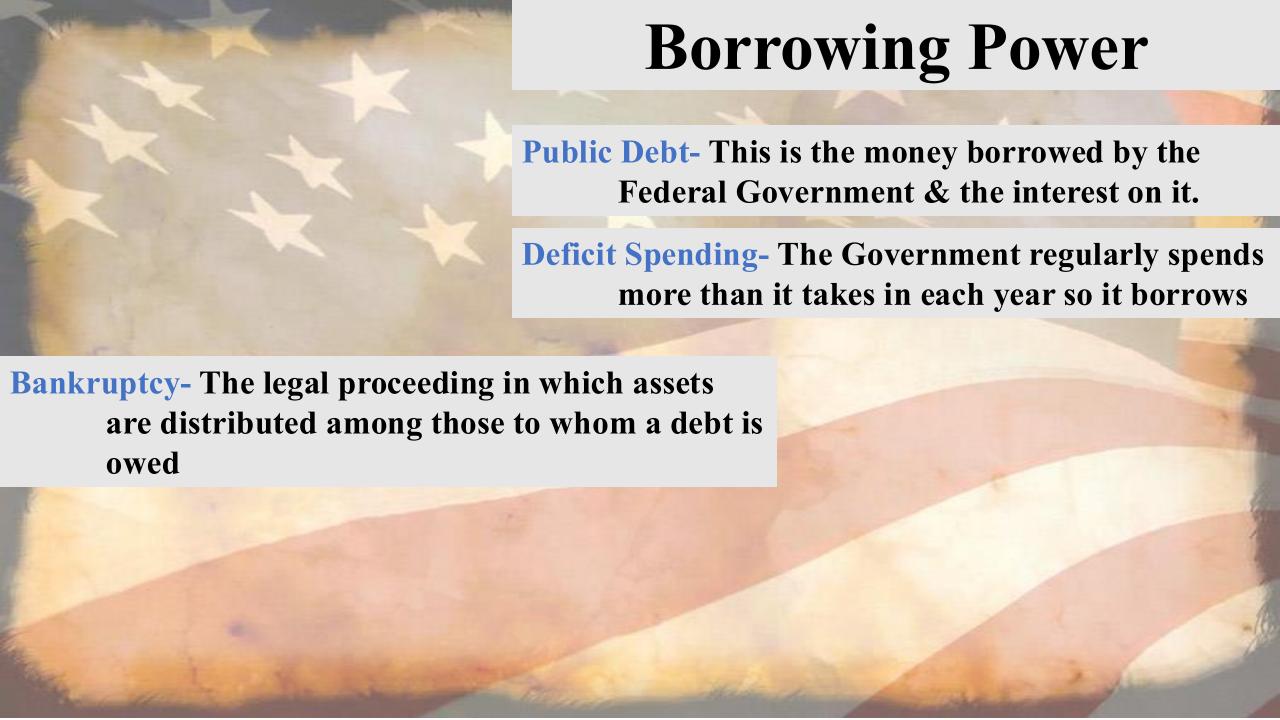
Naturalization, the process of citizens of another country becoming a U.S. citizen.

Congress can create all of the federal courts below the Supreme Court & can oversee the admittance of Supreme Court nominees

Only Congress can declare war & raise & support armies.

War Powers Resolution- Executive Branch can commit military forces abroad if Congress has declared war, has authorized a military action, or an attack on the U.S. has occurred.





#### **Domestic Powers**

Copyright- This is the exclusive right of an author to reproduce, publish, & sell his or her creative work.

These are good for the life of the author plus 70 years

Patent- Grants a person the sole right to manufacture, use, or sell a machine or composition.

These are good for up to twenty years & only extended by a special act of Congress



### Impeachment

Impeach-Accuse or bring charges. House brings it to the table & the Senate sits as court

If you are found not guilty then you are acquitted.

Perjury- Lying under oath.

DEFINE & SKETCH!

Censure- A formal condemnation of a behavior

Subpoena- A court order for someone to appear before court & produce evidence & documents



**President of the Senate-** Senates presiding officer, this is the Vice President of the United States

Vice President cannot vote on an issue, ONLY break a tie.

**President Pro Tempore-** The presiding officer who serves in the Vice President's absence

### **Party Officers**

Congress is the central policy making body & Congress is partisan

Party Caucus- Closed meeting of the members of each party in each house

The Policy Committee of the party's top leaders organizes & runs the caucus

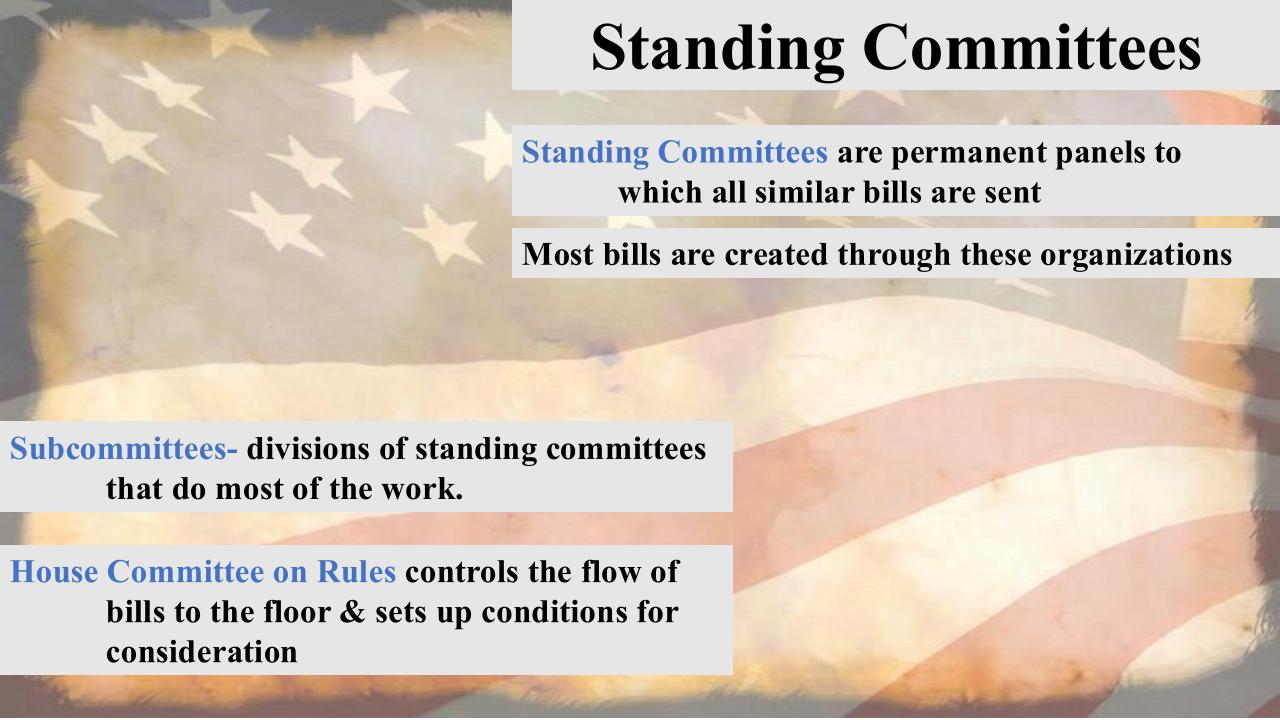
# Floor Leadership

Floor leaders- Leaders that are officers to help oversee the parties & act as strategists

Majority leader- Representative of the majority party in Congress

**Minority Leaders-** Representative of the minority party in Congress

Whips-Assistant floor leaders that serve as a liaison between the leadership & members



### **Other Committees**

Select Committees (special committees) are special panels set up for a limited time. Often for investigations

Joint Committee- A committee composed of members of both houses.

Conference Committee- A temporary joint body used to produce compromises for a bill that both houses will accept.