



Congress

- ★ Legislative supremacy
- ★ Bicameralism
 - ★ Two *different* chambers
- ★ **House**: 'popular'; constant campaign
- ★ **Senate**: 'elite'; deliberative
- ★ Different *perspectives*

	House	Senate
Term:	2	6
Size:	435	100
District Size:	~713k	~6.2 mil.
Constituency:	Alike	Diverse

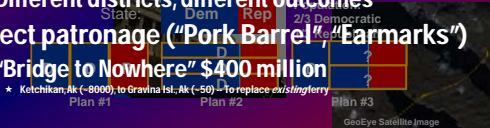
Representation

- ★ Sociological: background, characteristics
 - ★ Mostly lawyers; more political professionals
 - ★ More minorities and females (but still underrepresented)

	Average Age		Occupation					Religion		Gender/Ethnicity			Service	
	House	Senate	Lawyer	Business	Pol. Pro.	Educator	Catholic	Protest.	Female	Black	Hispanic	Military	1 st term	
1991-2	53	57	244	189	65	67	142	346	31	26	12	277	44	
2011-2	57	62	200	209	208	81	156	304	92	44	31	118	103	
Change	+7%	+9%	-18%	+11%	+220%	+21%	+10%	-12%	+197%	+67%	+158%	-57%	+134%	

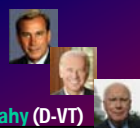
Representation

- ★ Agency: the 'Electoral Connection'
- ★ Incumbency: constituency service; re-election
- ★ Districting: gerrymandering (recall chap. 7 rules)
- ★ Different districts, different outcomes
- ★ Direct patronage ("Pork Barrel"/"Earmarks")
- ★ "Bridge to Nowhere" \$400 million



Organization

- ★ Leadership
- ★ Institutional: Presiding Officers
 - ★ House: Speaker – John Boehner (R-OH)
 - ★ Senate: President (VP) – Joe Biden (D)
 - Pres. Pro Tempore – Patrick Leahy (D-VT)



113 th 2013-2015	House		Senate			
	Republican	Democratic	Democratic	Democratic	Republican	Republican
Leader						
Whip						

Organization

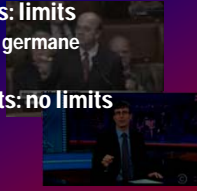
- ★ Committees (Standing: 22 House, 17 Senate)
- ★ Why Committees? Workload and Expertise
- ★ Types
 - ★ Standing: permanent, legislative
 - ★ Select (Special, Ad Hoc): temporary, investigative
 - ★ Joint: temporary or permanent, co-ordinate
 - ★ Conference: temporary, 'bill-specific'

Organization

- ★ Committees
- ★ Seniority system
 - ★ Length of continuous service
 - ★ Chamber seniority: committee assignments
 - ★ Committee seniority: committee chairs
 - ★ Benefits of seniority? Expertise, automatic
 - ★ Drawbacks of seniority? Unresponsive, out of step

Legislative Process

- ★ Notes: Debate, Amendments, the Veto
 - ★ House debate and amendments: limits
 - ★ 1 hour/person maximum debate, germane
 - ★ set by Rules Committee
 - ★ Senate debate and amendments: no limits
 - ★ filibuster, cloture (60 votes)
 - ★ President: Veto



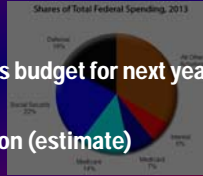
Legislative Process

- ★ Authorization: legislation (Standing cmtes)
- ★ More ways to kill than to pass
- ★ Appropriation: fund (Appropriations cmtes)

Budget Process

★ Annual budget

- ★ Jan. – Feb. : President submits budget for next year
- ★ Feb. – April: **Authorization**
- ★ April 15th: 1st Budget Resolution (estimate)
- ★ May – June: **Appropriations**
- ★ June 15th: 2nd Budget Resolution (binding)



Budget Process

★ Annual budget

- ★ Summer: **Reconciliation**
Laws are changed to reflect final budget
- ★ October 1st:
New fiscal (budget) year

How Congress Decides

★ Constituents

- ★ The "Electoral Connection"

★ Interest Groups

- ★ Especially constituent groups: Information

★ Party (especially in House)

- ★ Cmte assignments, floor access, Whip system, "logrolling", the President

Other Activities

- ★ Oversight

- ★ Especially in appropriations

- ★ Senate: Advice and Consent

- ★ Executive branch, Judicial branch, Treaties (2/3)

- ★ Impeachment

- ★ End lecture

