

## **CONGRESS: GENERAL DUTIES**

- Make Laws
- Oversight of Government Operations
- Study Societal Needs
- Constituent Services

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF US CONGRESS**

- Bicameral
- Committee Organization
- Serve Member Goals
- Serve Constituent Needs

## TYPES OF COMMITTEES

- **Standing:** Permanent Division Based on Substantive Area
- **Subcommittee:** Further Division of Standing Committee
- **Joint:** Members from both Houses
- **Conference:** Temporary Committee Used to Reconcile Differences in Bills
- **Select:** Temporary Committees Used to Study Special Problems or Issues

# **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE**

## **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

### **HOUSE**

Money bills

Impeachment begins

Domestic policy focus

### **SENATE**

Confirms appointments

Ratifies treaties

Larger foreign policy role

## **MEMBER ROLES**

### **HOUSE**

Larger

Policy Specialists

Time to power

### **SENATE**

Collegial

Policy generalists

Power to skills

## **POLITICAL FEATURES**

### **HOUSE**

Less prestigious

More formal rules

Debate restricted

### **SENATE**

More prestigious

Less structured

Unlimited debate