



What about other political offices?



There are no term limits for members of Congress. Term limits, if any, for state and local officials are spelled out in state constitutions and local ordinances.

The two chambers of the U.S. Congress, the House of Representatives and the Senate, have nearly equal powers, but their means of election are quite different.

The Founders of the American Republic intended members of the House of Representatives to be close to the public, reflecting the public's wishes and ambitions.

Therefore, the Founders designed the House to be relatively large to accommodate many members from small legislative districts and to have frequent elections (every two years).

- THE U.S. CONGRESS CONSISTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE.

Each of the 50 states is entitled to one seat in the House, with additional seats allocated according to population.

Alaska, for example, has a very small population and therefore has only one U.S. representative. California, the most populous state, has 55. Every 10 years the U.S. Census is taken, and House seats are reallocated among the states based on the new population figures.

Each state draws the boundaries of its congressional districts. States have considerable latitude in how they do this, so long as the number of citizens in each district is as close to equal as possible. Unsurprisingly, when one party controls the state government, it tries to draw the boundaries to the benefit of its own congressional candidates.

The Senate was designed for its members to represent larger constituencies—an entire state—and to provide equal representation for each state, regardless of population.

Thus, small states possess as much influence (two senators) as large states in the Senate.



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