

## The Legislative Branch

- What is Congress?
  - Legislative & oversight body
  - Authority derives from Art I, Sec 1
  - Checks other branches
- Congressional Term
  - New Congress elected every two years
  - Sessions begin Jan; end in fall
  - Each two year Congress referred to by number
- Design of Congress
  - Based on principle of bicameralism
  - Differences in origin & purpose
- The House of Representatives
  - Consists of "members chosen every second year by the People"(Art I, Sec 2, Cl 1)
  - Congressional Districts

- Specific powers
- Operation
- Leadership
- The House Rules Committee
- The Senate
  - Consists of “2 Senators from each State for six years” (Art I, Sec 3, Cl 1)
  - Specific powers
  - Operation
  - Leadership
  - The Filibuster
- Congress at work
  - Has split personality
  - Legislatures as Lawmakers
  - How a bill becomes a law
  - Legislative process = 2 steps
  - Committees

– Investigation & Oversight