

US Constitution - Article I Terms - Legislative Branch

1. Legislature The branch of government responsible for making laws.
2. Congress The bicameral legislative body of the United States consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
3. House of Representatives The lower chamber of Congress, with membership based on population size of each state.
4. Senate The upper chamber of Congress, with equal representation of two senators per state.
5. Bicameral Having two separate chambers or houses within a legislative body.
6. Enumerated Powers Specific powers granted to Congress in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.
7. Elastic Clause Also known as the Necessary and Proper Clause, grants Congress the authority to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.
8. Impeachment The process by which Congress can charge and remove a federal official from office for misconduct.
9. Bill Proposed legislation presented for consideration by Congress.
10. Veto The power of the president to reject legislation passed by Congress.
11. Override Congress's authority to pass legislation into law despite a presidential veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both chambers.
12. Law Legislation enacted by Congress and signed by the president or passed over a presidential veto.
13. Quorum The minimum number of members required to conduct official business in Congress.
14. Commerce Clause Grants Congress the power to regulate commerce among the states and with foreign nations.
15. Taxation Congress's authority to levy and collect taxes to fund the government and its programs.
16. Appropriations The process by which Congress allocates funds for specific government purposes.
17. Filibuster A tactic used in the Senate to delay or block legislation by prolonged speechmaking or other means.
18. Ratification The formal approval process required for amendments to the Constitution or for treaties negotiated by the president.
19. Bill of Attainder Legislative act declaring a person or group guilty of a crime and punishing them without a trial.
20. Ex Post Facto Latin term meaning "after the fact," refers to laws that retroactively criminalize an action or increase the punishment for it after it has been committed.