Crash Course #2: Bicameral Congress

Which branch is considered the most important branch of the Constitution?

Legislative

What are the names of the two house in Congress?

Senate and House of Representatives

What is this system called?

Bicameral

House of Representatives

Age requirement: 25 years old

Citizen Requirement: 7 years

Residency Requirement: Reside in the state you hope to represent

How is the House of Rep. determined?

Population

What is the minimum number a state will receive of representatives?

The minimum number is one

List 2 states that get only one rep?

Vermont, North & South Dakota

Wyoming and Alaska

Which state has the most reps?

California has the most 52

How many members are in the House of Reps?

435 members

Senate

Age requirement: 30 years old

Citizen Requirement: 9 years

Residency Requirement: Reside in the state you hope to represent

How is the Senate determined?

Equal representation= 2 each

How many members are in the House of Reps?

100 members

Which amendment changed the Senate from being voted for by state legislature to the people?

17th

What is the main purpose of both the Senate and House of Representatives?

To make laws

What powers does the House of Representatives have?

-Power to impeach the president & other federal officials

-Decides presidential elections if no candidate wins the majority of electoral college.

-Any bill raising taxes/revenue must start in the House (power of the purse)

What powers does the Senate have?

-Impeachment Trial presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

-Ratify treaties (2/3 vote)

-Confirm appointments of executive officers (over 1000)

What are the two reasons why the Legislature is set up this way?

Historical- framers couldn’t agree on the type they wanted

Practical- helps make sure legislature doesn’t have too much power.

Interbranch check – checks and balances

What was the comprise called that created the structure of the Legislature?

The Great Compromise or Connecticut Compromise

Upper House= Senate

Founders wanted members of this house to be: more experienced and immune to change in public desires.

How many years is a Senators term: Serve for 6 years

Lower House= House of Representatives

Founders wanted members of this house to be: more responsive to the people

How many years is a House of Reps term: Serve 2 year