



▶ Objectives

1. Compare the size of the Senate to the size of the House of Representatives.
2. Describe how senators are elected.
3. Explain how and why a senator's term differs from a representative's term.
4. Describe the qualifications for election to the Senate.

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▶ Key Terms

- **continuous body**: a political body in which all of the seats are never up for election at the same time
- **constituency**: the people and interests represented by a politician

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▶ Introduction

- How does the Senate differ from the House?
  - The Senate has only **100 members**, two from each state.
  - Members are elected to **six-year terms**.
  - Senators must be at least **30 years old**, have been a **U.S. citizen** for at least nine years, and **reside in the state** they represent.
  - Senators are often seen as less subject to public pressure and more concerned about national issues than members of the House.

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## ▶ Structure of the Senate



- The size of the Senate changes as new states are admitted to the Union.
  - The Senate began with 22 members in 1789.
- Senators tend to represent a much larger and broader range of citizens than representatives.
  - Each Senator represents his or her entire state, while only seven representatives are elected at large from their entire state as opposed to a congressional district.

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## ▶ The Millionaires' Club



- Senators were originally elected by state legislatures rather than by popular vote.
  - In the late 1880s, the Senate was called the Millionaires' Club because legislatures often elected wealthy political party and business leaders.

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## ▶ The 17th Amendment



- Checkpoint: How were senators chosen before and after the passage of the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment?
  - In 1913, the 17th amendment changed the way Senators were elected.
  - Senators are now elected by popular vote in statewide elections.
  - Only one senator is elected from a state during any given election.

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## ▶ Senate Terms



- There are **no limits** on how many six-year terms a Senator can serve.
- Senate **terms are staggered** so that one third of them expire every two years.
  - All the seats in the Senate are never up for election at the same time.
- If a senator dies, resigns, or is expelled, they are typically replaced by a person appointed by the governor of their state until a special election can be held.

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## ▶ A Unique Role

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- Senators are thought of as being more focused on national issues and are more likely to be seen as national political leaders than members of the House. Why?
  - Due to their longer terms in office, Senators are seen as less susceptible than representatives to the pressures of public opinion
  - Senators represent larger and more diverse constituencies than representatives in the House, and can champion public policies that appeal to many Americans.

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## ▶ National Recognition

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- Senators receive more national and home state media exposure than members of the House,
- Senators often use this publicity to help them launch presidential campaigns.



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## ▶ Senators: Policy and Prestige

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- Senators are Washington celebrities - members of what is often called “the world’s most exclusive club.”
- Their names are frequently household words and their activities draw media coverage that allows them to call attention to issues that they deem important.
- Many senators use the spotlight to launch presidential campaigns.



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## ▶ Qualifications

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- Senators must meet a stricter set of requirements for office than members of the House of Representatives.
- The Framers set these requirements, as well as the longer terms in office, because they wanted the Senate to be a more enlightened and responsible legislative body than the House.



Senator Edward Kennedy (D., Mass)

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## ▶ Informal Qualifications

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- To be electable, senators must also meet informal qualifications.
  - These can include party affiliation, gender, ethnicity, name recognition, and being an incumbent.
- Fundraising is also vital for successful senate campaigns.



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## ▶ Senate Discipline

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- The Senate has the power to discipline its members or refuse to seat an elected member.
  - The Senate can expel a member with a two thirds vote or punish them with a majority vote.
  - The Senate has expelled 15 members, most of them senators who supported secession during the Civil War.
  - The threat of expulsion or the embarrassment of being publicly denounced by the Ethics Committee has led some senators to resign.

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## ▶ Review

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- Now that you have learned how the Senate differs from the House, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
  - Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?

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