Congress may carry on the most wicked and pernicious of schemes under the dark veil of secrecy. The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.

Patrick Henry
FEDERALISM

• In our federal system, some powers and responsibilities are granted to the national government, some are shared, and some are reserved for the states.

• It is inevitable that conflicts will occur between state governments and the national government.

• United States v. Lopez (1995): first Supreme Court case since the New Deal to set limits to congressional power under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution ... Court found that while Congress had broad lawmaking authority under the Commerce Clause, the power was limited.

• Federalism also infuses localism into congressional affairs.
CONGRESS: THE FIRST BRANCH

- Called the **first branch** because the Constitution lays out the powers and structure of Congress in Article I.
- Congress is **bicameral**: consisting of two chambers
  - The upper chamber is the **Senate**, representing the states.
  - The lower chamber is the **House of Representatives**, representing the people.
- The chambers have roughly equal powers.
- Supported by staff and other institutions.
  - Library of Congress
  - General Accounting Office
  - Congressional Budget Office

The architecture and floor plan of the Capitol building in Washington reflect the bicameral division of Congress.
COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Members of Congress are only a fraction of the legislative branch.

**House**
- Committee: 1267
- Personal staff: 7216
- Leadership staff: 179
- Officers of the House staff: 974

**Senate**
- Committee staff: 910
- Personal staff: 4272
- Leadership staff: 219
- Officers of the Senate staff: 990
- Joint Committee Staffs: 104

**Support Agencies**
- General Accounting Office: 3275
- Congressional Research Service: 747
- Congressional Budget Office: 232

**Miscellaneous**
- Architect: 2012
- Capitol Police: 1251
CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Congressional staff assist members in official responsibilities in personal, committee, leadership or administrative office settings. Staff are involved in virtually all elements of the work of Congress.

What Is Daily Life Like for a Congressional Staffer?

Staff will usually include more than one legislative correspondent and aide. Often a press secretary and several interns are also on staff.
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

- **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)**
  - created in 1974
  - evaluates the economic effects of different spending programs
  - provides information on the cost of proposed policies
  - analyzes the president’s budget and economic projections
  - provides Congress and members with a valuable second opinion in budget debates

- **Congressional Research Service (CRS)**
  - created in 1914 (originally the Legislative Research Service)
  - administered by the Library of Congress (LOC)
  - more than 250,000 requests for information annually
  - conducts nonpartisan studies of public issues, compiles facts on both sides of issues and conducts major research projects for congressional committees
  - prepares summaries and tracks progress of all bills
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

• **Government Accountability Office (GAO)**
  
  • established in 1921 as an independent regulatory agency (originally the General Accounting Office)
  
  • primary purpose: audit the financial expenditures of the executive branch and federal agencies
  
  • secondary functions:
    • sets government standards for accounting
    • provides a variety of legal opinions
    • settles claims against the government
    • conducts studies at the request of Congress
CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- Article I: structure of Congress
  - **bicameral legislature**: divided into two houses
    - each state sends two senators regardless of population
    - number of representatives each state sends to House determined by state population
  - congressional powers
    - center of lawmaking
  - **enumerated powers**: listed powers
  - **elastic clause**: gives Congress the ability to make laws not specifically anticipated in the constitution, the necessary and proper clause

---

**The Principal Powers of Congress**

- To levy taxes
- To borrow money
- To regulate commerce
- To decide requirements for citizenship
- To make monetary policy
- To establish a postal system
- To establish federal courts below the Supreme Court
- To declare war
- To raise an army and a navy
- To call up the state militias
- To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for executing the other powers of Congress
## Constitutional Foundations of the Legislative Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of powers</th>
<th>House of Representatives</th>
<th>Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusive Powers</strong></td>
<td>• Initiate money bills&lt;br&gt;• Impeachment&lt;br&gt;• Elect president if Electoral College is tied</td>
<td>• Confirm appointments&lt;br&gt;• Ratify treaties&lt;br&gt;• Try cases of impeachment&lt;br&gt;• Elect vice-president if Electoral College is tied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concurrent Powers</strong></td>
<td>• Pass legislation&lt;br&gt;• Override the presidential veto&lt;br&gt;• Initiate constitutional amendments&lt;br&gt;• Declare war&lt;br&gt;• Confirm a newly appointed vice-president</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Constitution grants Congress three types of powers.

1. **expressed powers**: granted to Congress explicitly in the Constitution ... 27 enumerated or listed powers in Article 1 Section 8

   other specific powers granted in Article IV Section 3, Article V, Amendments 13-16, 19, 23-24, 26 ...

2. **implied powers**: granted by reasonable deduction from the expressed powers, not listed in Constitution, come from interpretation of elastic or necessary and proper clause: to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof (Article I, Section 8), used to carry out expressed powers

3. **inherent powers**: granted through the Constitution’s creation of a national government for the US, not listed in Constitution, powers Congress has by virtue of being the national legislature such as regulating immigration or protecting the borders
EXPRESSED CONGRESSIONAL POWERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peacetime Powers</th>
<th>War Powers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clause</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provision</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To establish and collect taxes, duties, and excises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>To borrow money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>To regulate foreign and interstate commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>To create naturalization laws; to create bankruptcy laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>To coin money and regulate its value; to regulate weights and measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>To punish counterfeiters of federal money and securities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>To establish post offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>To grant patents and copyrights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>To create courts inferior to the Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>To define and punish crimes at sea and violations of international law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>To exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia and other federal properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>To make all laws necessary and proper to the execution of any of the other expressed powers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Legislative Powers:
- impeachment of federal officials
- electoral duties
- confirmation of appointments
- conduct census
- regulate immigration
- propose amendments to the constitution
- ratify treaties
- conduct investigations through committee hearings, and issue subpoenas
- control the borders
IMPLIED CONGRESSIONAL POWERS

Examples of implied congressional powers linked to expressed powers:

1. The expressed power to borrow money implies the power to establish the Federal Reserve System of banks.
2. The expressed power to lay and collect taxes implies the power to punish tax evaders, to regulate (license) the sale of some commodities (such as alcohol) and outlaw the use of others (such as narcotics), to require States to meet certain conditions to qualify for federal funding.
3. The expressed power to raise armies and a navy implies the power to draft Americans into the military.
4. The expressed power to regulate commerce implies the power to establish a minimum wage, to ban discrimination in workplaces and public facilities, to pass laws protecting the disabled, to regulate banking.
5. The expressed power to establish naturalization law implies the power to regulate and limit immigration.
6. The expressed power to establish post offices implies the power to prohibit mail fraud and obstruction of the mails, to bar the shipping of certain items through the mails.
CONSTRAINTS ON CONGRESSIONAL POWER

- **constraints on congressional power**
  - **bicameralism**: both houses must approve identical bills, which always involves compromise
  - **bills of attainder** prohibited: acts declaring a person or group of persons guilty of some crime and punishing them, often without a trial
  - **ex post facto laws** prohibited: laws that retroactively change the legal consequences / status of actions that were committed or relationships that existed before the enactment of the law
  - right to **habeas corpus**: court order requiring the government to produce a prisoner so the court can determine the legality of custody and decide if the government's detention of the prisoner is valid, the legal procedure that keeps the government from holding you indefinitely without showing cause
CONSTRAINTS ON CONGRESSIONAL POWER

- **constraints on congressional power**

  - **separation of powers**: separation of governmental power among 3 independent branches so that one has legislative powers, one has administration and enforcement powers, and one has judicial powers

  - **checks and balances**: system that ensures that no one branch of government will become too powerful by separating powers (above) and by giving each branch the ability to check and balance the other branches

    - The US system of checks and balances has worked well over the course of American history. Even though there have been times when one branch has risen preeminent, overall the three branches have achieved a workable balance with no one branch holding all governmental power.
CHECKS AND BALANCES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

• The legislative branch has the following checks over the executive branch:
  • overrides presidential vetoes with 2/3 vote (Has become more commonly used since 1969. 18% of all vetoed legislation ends in veto being overridden.)
  • power over the purse strings to fund (or not) any executive action
  • impeaches and removes president (Only Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton have been impeached but the House did not vote to remove either from office.)
  • Senate approves treaties
  • Senate approves presidential appointments

• The legislative branch has the following checks over the judicial branch:
  • creates lower courts
  • impeaches and removes judges (15 federal judges have been impeached by Congress.)
  • Senate approves appointments of judges

• Of these powers, Senate approval of appointments, treaties and judges, and the power of the purse strings are the most widely used.
CHECKS AND BALANCES OVER THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- The **executive branch** has the following checks over the legislative branch:
  - veto power (The number of vetoes presidents deliver has varied over time. Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the most vetoes with 635 over his four terms as president.)
  - calls special sessions of Congress
  - recommends legislation
  - appeals to the people concerning legislation and more

- The **judicial branch** has the following checks over the legislative branch:
  - decides constitutionality of legislative acts through the power of judicial review
    - Legislative and executive actions are subject to review by the judiciary, which may invalidate laws and decisions that are incompatible with the Constitution.
    - This can only happen when the question is brought up in a case presented to the court.
### CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House of Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term</strong></td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elections</strong></td>
<td>One-third elected in November of even-numbered years</td>
<td>Entire membership elected in November of even-numbered years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number per state</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Varies by size of state’s population (minimum of 1 per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total membership</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>435 (determined by Congress; at present size since 1910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum age for membership</strong></td>
<td>30 years</td>
<td>25 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unique powers</strong></td>
<td>Advice and consent for judicial and upper-level executive branch appointments</td>
<td>Origination of revenue bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trial of impeachment cases</td>
<td>Bringing of impeachment charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advice and consent for treaties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US residency</strong></td>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Members tend to be
- better educated than the population in general (95% are college graduates. 72.5% have advanced degrees.)
- wealthy (190 are millionaires. The wealthiest 50 are worth at least 7.3 million. 2/3 of the wealthiest are Republicans.)*
- male (19% are women.)
- white (nonwhites make up 19%.)
- experienced (Only 11.5% are freshmen members.)
- Christian (over 90%)
- native-born (Only 2% are immigrants.)
- Average age is 62 for Senators and 58 for House members.
- 1% are openly LGBTQ.
- occupations: 44.5% public service/politics, 39% business, 41% law, 18.5% education
- 55% are Republican.

* figures from 114th Congress since those from 115th not yet available
CONGRESSIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
(115TH CONGRESS, 2017-2018)

MINORITIES: 102 total
- African-Americans: 49
- Hispanics: 38
- Asian-Americans: 15

NON-CHRISTIAN: 39 total
- Jewish: 30
- Hindu: 4
- Buddhist: 3
- Muslim: 2

HOUSE
- African-Americans: 46
- Hispanics: 34
- Asian-Americans: 12

SENATE
- African-Americans: 3
- Hispanics: 4
- Asian-Americans: 3

WOMEN: 104 total

LGBT: 7 total

HOUSE
- Jewish: 22
- Hindu: 4
- Buddhist: 2
- Muslim: 2

SENATE
- Jewish: 8
- Buddhist: 1
THE ELECTORAL CONNECTION
(REVIEW ALSO ELECTIONS 101)

election of House and Senate (17th amendment)

- **apportionment**: established through the *Great Compromise* with House based on population and Senate based on equal representation of the states (House size fixed at 435 in 1929.)

- apportioning electoral House districts

- **reapportionment**: process of allotting congressional seats to each state following the ten year census

- **redistricting**: redrawing congressional districts to reflect increases or decreases in seats allotted to the states, as well as population shifts within a state

- **gerrymandering**: manipulating boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one party or group
The number of representatives for each state in the House of Representatives is based on the size of its population. Because the relative sizes of the states’ populations change over time, while the number of representatives is fixed, the number of representatives from each state is recalculated after each census. This process is called reapportionment. This map shows which states gained and lost representatives after the 2010 census.
THE ELECTORAL CONNECTION

apportioning electoral House districts

• partisan redistricting: redistricting by a partisan majority, encourages manipulation of elections by allowing incumbents to help partisan allies, hurt political enemies and further political goals by drawing boundaries to reduce competition rather than to ensure equal voting power and fair representation

• incumbent-protection redistricting: parties strike a bargain in order to maintain the status quo, protecting all existing incumbents and (where possible) preserving their traditional constituencies

• majority-minority districts: electoral district in which the majority of constituents are racial or ethnic minorities, a packed district
THE ELECTORAL CONNECTION

money and congressional elections

- 2016: average 1.7 million for Senate race, 1/2 million for House

- **effects of campaign finance reform**: rising costs of campaigns, declining competition, increasing dependence on PACs and wealthy donors, increased money spent on issue advocacy and voter mobilization, increased independent spending by groups separate from but aligned with parties

- **funding sources**:
  - individuals
  - PACs, super PACs, 527s
  - political parties
  - candidates

- Generally speaking, Republicans raise more money than Democrats.

All members of Congress should be required to wear NASCAR uniforms. You know, the kind with the patches? That way we'd know who is sponsoring each of them.

Brad Thor
INCUMBENCY
(REVIEW ALSO ELECTIONS 101)

- **incumbent**: the current office-holder
- **open-seat election**: race without an incumbent
- **incumbency advantage**: Being in office helps a member stay in office because of a variety of benefits that go with the position.

- The percentage of incumbents who win reelection in the House of Representatives has been over 80% for more than 50 years, and is often over 90%. Does this have any implications for democracy?
ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY

• **Favored Candidates**
  Simply because they've been elected before, incumbents have an edge. Citizens liked them enough to vote for them previously and unless something drastic has happened, those positive feelings haven’t changed. To win in the first place, candidates had to pass muster with constituents.

• **Lack of Competition**
  It can be difficult to find a candidate to stage an uphill battle against a sitting member of Congress. Researchers looked at the quality of candidates in Senate elections with open seats – no incumbent was running -- and compared them to candidates fighting an incumbent. The open-seat election candidates were more qualified for the positions.

• **New Boundaries**
  The process of redistricting, which occurs every decade after the census determines population, can have a serious effect on elections. When state legislatures draw new districts, the party in power within the state can ensure that many areas are “safe” for its congressional candidates, including incumbents.
ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY

• **Money**

With changes in campaign finance laws, much of the big money for political campaigns comes from corporations, unions, political action committees and lobbyists. Their money goes to proven entities: incumbents who have a say in lawmaking and have already cast favorable votes. New candidates have no legislative power before the election and interest groups don't know if novice members will support them.

Incumbents can spend much of their time fundraising. However, new candidates are usually working full-time, so they have less opportunity to focus on donors. In addition, incumbents are often able to get popular politicians to host or participate in fundraisers.

• **Exposure**

Incumbents can be in the public eye continually, sending mailings, holding town hall meetings and speaking to the media. They can advertise what they've done for their districts: introducing or voting for favorable legislation and obtaining federal money. Incumbents can also get positive publicity and feelings of goodwill by helping individuals with government problems.
ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY

• **Campaign Organization**
  Every incumbent has run at least one successful election campaign. This means, among other things, that an incumbent has invaluable experience with creating and managing a campaign organization. Incumbents generally have an effective volunteer organization in place and ready go when it is time to campaign.

• **Perks of Office**
  Each member of Congress has an office budget allotment which provides enough money to hire a sizable staff both in DC and back home in their states or districts. These staffers assist members in their efforts to be effective, well-liked representatives. In addition to money for staff, members of Congress also have travel allowances for trips between DC and their constituencies as well as for trips inside their states or districts. One of the most widely recognized perks of members is the ability to send postage-free informational letters or announcements to their constituents on a regular basis. Members also have committee assignments which add to their prestige. Finally, incumbents’ offices are their full-time jobs, which allows them to work on their campaign as part of the job.
ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY

• **Time**

Sitting members of Congress are on the job full-time - that is what they are paid to do. In fact, many of the things a candidate would do to win an election, such as meeting and talking with voters, attending special events, appearing on television or radio talk shows, etc, are part of the job description of a member of Congress. In contrast, a candidate challenging an incumbent must generally figure out how to pay his or her bills while running for office. Many candidates are forced to go into debt, especially in the early stages of a campaign before he/she has raised much money.

• **Bottom Line**

Members of Congress are re-elected because their constituents have not been provided with a compelling reason to vote for someone else.
INCUMBENCY PATTERNS

Re-election Rates Over the Years

Senate races overwhelmingly favor the incumbent, but not by as reliable a margin as House races. Big swings in the national mood can sometimes topple long time office-holders, as happened with the Reagan revolution in 1980. Even so, years like that are an exception.
Political action committees have one overriding mandate: get the most bang for the buck. To maximize their dollars, nearly all PACs - particularly those of business groups - give the overwhelming proportion of their campaign dollars to incumbents. With congressional reelection rates typically in the 90% range, from their point of view that's a sound investment. Labor groups also give heavily to incumbents. Ideological groups, on the other hand, are much more likely to take a chance on political newcomers.
A new Congress is seated every two years beginning in January of odd-numbered years (following the elections held in November of even-numbered years). Even if every member were re-elected so that a Congress was identical to the previous Congress, it would still be considered a new Congress ... example: the 115th Congress (01/2017-12/2018)

Until the early twentieth century the US Congress changed little, but with growing national responsibilities it sought to develop organizational forms that could address a consistently stronger executive. Since the 1980s, the Congress has relied increasingly on stronger parties to organize its activities.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have hierarchical leadership structures.

Both rely on two overlapping organizational features to get their work done: the Party System and the Committee System.
THE ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS

- The House and Senate have evolved to meet the demands of law making.

- The *division of labor created the committee system*. Committees set the agenda.

- The *need to organize large numbers of people to make decisions led to the party leadership structure*. Committees are controlled by the majority.

- Parties determine leadership and leadership determines committee structure and assignments ... As one party leader put it: *You get your seat from your district. You get your committee assignment from your party.*

- Both systems are *more important in the House* since the Senate is small enough to operate by informal coordination and negotiation.
Although not strictly a party panel, the Rules Committee in modern times functions largely as an arm of the majority leadership.
PARTY SYSTEM: THE ROLE OF PARTIES IN ORGANIZING CONGRESS

- Parties have always played an important role in Congress but their significance has increased in recent decades so that parties and their strength have important implications in Congress.

- **Ideology** is generally split into distinctive left and right wings. Members’ stands on political issues matter to them and may affect re-election chances.
  - Ideology influences legislation, characterizes relationships with the executive branch and defines relationships between members and with constituents.

- **party discipline**
  - Weak party discipline is generally found in congressional systems such as the US (as opposed, for example, to parliamentary systems such as Great Britain).
  - Routine for members to **cross party lines** on a given vote, typically following the interests of their region or following other members of a borderline group within their party (conservative Blue Dog Democrats, socially liberal Main Street Republicans).
PARTY SYSTEM: PARTY LEADERSHIP

- The Constitution says little about party leadership.
- The House chooses a **Speaker** and other leaders.
- The **Vice President** of the US is the Senate’s president. In his absence the Senate chooses a **president pro tempore**.
- The leaders of the majority party are also the leaders of the House and Senate.
- Today, each party also chooses a **floor leader**, **deputy floor leader**, **whips**, **chairs of various party committees** and the **Senate and House campaign committees**.
- There are significant differences between the Senate and House party leaders.
- The Speaker is both a House leader and a party leader with both institutional and informal authority.
- The Senate’s majority leader has few formal powers, which means that he cannot transfer influence to his successor. His influence is personal and depends on his skills and style of leadership.
PARTY SYSTEM: TASKS OF PARTY LEADERS

- **organize** the institution at the beginning of the Congress
- **maintain** the operation of the institution throughout the session
- **negotiate** legislative compromises on bills before the respective chamber

**agenda control**: getting favorable agenda passed, keeping unpopular bills off the agenda (gate-keeping)

- **pressure**: falling in line with the leadership of a member’s party could be beneficial in terms of incentives, committee selection, pork, logrolling, etc ... lobbyists target leaders because members vote along leader-determined party lines

- **discipline**: ignoring party leadership, especially on pivotal votes, can have implications for future committee assignments etc, affecting members’ ability to have an influence and members’ re-election chances
PARTY SYSTEM: LIMITS ON PARTY LEADERSHIP’S INFLUENCE

- party’s majority or minority status in each body
- whether the majority or minority party controls the White House
- whether the party is a truncated minority (when one chamber of Congress is controlled by the same party that controls the White House, while the other chamber is controlled by the other party)
- size of the majority or minority leaders’ party in the Senate and House
- leader’s skills and style
- collegial character of the leadership
- increasingly complex policy issues
- nature of the issues: technical, internal issues with low visibility OR clear-cut substantive issues with high visibility
- bicameralism
- the committee system
- the centrifugal forces emanating from diverse congressional districts
- the fear of electoral retribution
PARTY SYSTEM: 2016
CONGRESSIONAL RACES BY PARTY

Senate election outcome by party

House election outcome by party

- 2 Democrats
- 2 Republicans
- 1 Democrat and 1 Republican
- 1 Independent and 1 Democrat
- 1 Independent and 1 Republican

Democratic: 194
Republican: 241
PARTY SYSTEM: SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

• protégée/apprenticeship system: Speakers tend to have held leadership positions prior to their selection.

• The Speaker has important institutional powers.
  • presides over the House
  • administrative head of the House
  • official spokesperson for the House
  • second in line of presidential succession
  • House liaison with president
  • puts all questions (requires members to vote on motions presented)
  • recognizes members who seek to address the House
  • determines the order of business
  • refers bills to committees for further action
PARTY SYSTEM: SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

- institutional powers (continued)
  - determines whether there is a quorum
  - has rule-making power
  - has appointment power, e.g. chair of the Committee of the Whole House
- great political influence within the chamber
  - Henry Clay, first powerful speaker (1810)
  - Joe Cannon (1903-1910), was so powerful that a revolt emerged to reduce powers of the speakership.
  - Newt Gingrich (1995)
  - Paul D. Ryan - current speaker (2017)
PARTY SYSTEM: PARTY LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE

• Floor Leaders in the House
  • The **Majority Leader** is the Speaker’s lieutenant on the floor of the House.
  • The **Minority Leader** is the minority party’s head in the House.
  • The majority/minority leader is part of the collegial leadership and is responsible for the agenda and the timing of legislation in the House.
  • The **whips** and **whip organizations** are members who serve as informational channels between the leadership and the rank and file, conveying the leadership’s views and intentions to the members and vice versa.

**Majority Leader**
Kevin McCarthy

**Minority Leader**
Nancy Pelosi

**Majority Whip**
Steve Scalise

**Minority Whip**
Steny Hoyer

**Republican Conference Chair**
Cathy McMorris Rodgers

**Democratic Caucus Chair**
Joseph Crowley
PARTY SYSTEM: PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE HOUSE

- **Democratic Caucus**: all Democratic members of the House ... held at the opening of each new Congress, select party’s congressional leadership, ratify choice of committee leaders, debate party positions on issues, organize each party’s legislative business

- **Republican Conference**: Republican equivalent of Democratic Caucus

- **Democratic Policy and Steering Committee**: purpose to assign fellow party members to House committees and to advise party leaders on policy ... House Republicans divide the duties of this committee between two groups: a **Policy Committee** and a **Steering Committee**.

- **Congressional Campaign Committees**: exist for both Democrats and Republicans, and work to elect candidates from each party to the House

- During the last 135 years the party leadership has gone through several phases: centralization between 1875 and 1895, institutionalization between 1890 and 1910, bureaucratization after 1897
Continued in CONGRESS AND ITS WORK PART II