

## Vocabulary Chapter 13 – Congress

The central purpose of this chapter is to describe the Framers' understanding of the role of Congress and to describe the role and organization of Congress today. You should pay particular attention to the effects of organizational characteristics on the behavior of members of Congress and on the way that the House and the Senate perform their functions. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. Explain the differences between Congress and Parliament.
2. Delineate the role that the Framers expected Congress to play.
3. Pinpoint the significant eras in the evolution of Congress.
4. Describe the characteristics of members of Congress.
5. Discuss the relationship between ideology and civility in Congress in recent years.
6. Identify the factors that help to explain why a member of Congress votes as she or he does.
7. Outline the process for electing members of Congress.
8. Identify the functions of party affiliation in the organization of Congress.
9. Explain the effect of committee reform on the organization of Congress.
10. Describe the formal process by which a bill becomes a law.
11. Explain the ethical problems confronting Congress.

bicameral  
Senate  
House of Representatives  
bill  
Blue Dog Democrats  
caucus (congressional caucus)  
Christmas Tree  
closed rule  
cloture rule

confirmation  
Congressional committees  
Congressional Black Caucus  
Congressional Hispanic Congress  
Congressional Budget Office  
Congressional Research Office  
committee staff  
concurrent resolution  
conference committee  
conservative coalition

constituents  
descriptive representation  
divided government  
discharge petition  
division vote  
double-tracking  
earmarks  
entrepreneurial  
filibuster  
franking  
gerrymandering  
safe districts  
General Accounting Office  
hearings  
investigations  
joint committee  
law  
legislation  
Library of Congress  
joint resolution  
legislator  
logrolling  
expulsion  
confirmation  
majority leader  
marginal districts

term limits  
whips

mark-ups  
Christmas Tree bill  
minority leader  
multiple referral  
nomination  
open rule  
oversights  
partisanship  
party polarization  
pork barrel legislation/ pork  
power of the purse  
President of the Senate  
private bill  
public bill  
quorum  
Republican Revolution  
restrictive rule  
reconciliation  
revenue bills  
rider  
roll-call vote  
safe district  
select committees  
seniority rule  
sequential referral  
Speaker of the House  
simple resolution  
standing committees  
teller vote voice vote

