**Chapter 11- Congress**

**Christina**

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| **Section Title** |  | **Summary of key ideas** |
| **Composition of Congress** |  | - Bicameral legislature; balancing small and large state- Dominant institution of the federal government- 17th amendment; senators were elected directly by the people and, as a consequence, became more interested in pleasing the general electorate- Rule 22; allowed debate to be cut off if ⅔ of the senators present and voting agreed to a cloture to cut off debate |
|  | *Sex and Race* | -House has less male and less white since 1950- Senate has been slower to change(Memberso color may gain influence more quickly in the future because the former tend to come from safe district) |
|  | *Incumbency* | - The republican revolution of early 1900s brought many new members to the House, incumbents still hold a great electoral advantage. -2008, ⅔ of senate incumbents won with 60% or more of the vote, illustrating the major advantage incumbents have throughout Congress.-Media coverage is higher, and greater name recognition because of- franking, -credit claimed for projects brought to a state or district (pork barrel projects), and -individual case help. |
|  | *Party* | -Democrats were the beneficiaries of imcumbency from the 1930s to 1992, controlled both houses- 1994, voters opposed incumbents because of budget deficits, scandals, and legislative-executive bickering.- Conservative democrats, and Republicans controls Congress today.  |
| **Types of Representation** | *Representational view* | - Legislators are more likely to vote in accord with constituent desires in the areas of civil rights and social welfare but less so on foreign policy issues. |
|  | *Organizational view* | - When constituency interest are not vitally at stake, legislators may respond to their party leaders or respected colleagues.  |
|  | *Attitudinal view* | -Legislator’s ideology determines his or her vote.- Members of Congress are increasingly divided by political ideology. |
| **Organization Of Congress** | *Party Organization in Congress* | - ***The President pro tempore***; leader of the Senate, the most seniority in the majority party.-***The Majority leader*** schedules senate business. -***Party whips*** keep leaders informed and pressure party members to vote in accord with the party line. - ***Policy committee*** schedules Senate business and prioritizes bills.-***The Speaker of the House***; leader of the majority party and presides over the House. The Speaker’s powers are formidable and include deciding who will be recognized; interpreting rules; assigning bills; influencing which bills to brough up; and appointing members of special/ select committee.-***The Majority leader***, floor leader elected by the majority party.- ***The Minority leader***, elected by the minority leader.-Each party has a whip, who is in charge of rounding up votes. - Caucuses-associations of members of Congress created to advocate on behalf of an ideology, constituency, or regional and economic interest - Intraparty share the same ideology - Personal interest members share an interest in an issue - Constituency concerns members have similar constituencies. |
|  | *Committee Organization in Congress* | - Committees consider bills, maintain oversight of executive agencies, and conduct investigations. - ***Standing Committees;*** permanent bodies with specific legislative responsibilities  - ***Select Committees***; appointed for a limited purpose and limited time - ***Joint Committees***; joint of both representatives and senators. Conference committees are a type of joint committee appointed to resolve differences in Senate and House versions of the same piece of legislation. - 2 House Committees are noteworthy for their prominence in the dynamics of the House.  - ***House Rules Committee***; unique to the House, reviews bills except revenue, budget, and appropriations bills coming from a House committee before the bills go to the full House.  - ***House Ways And Means Committee***; drafts tax legislation. |
|  | *Staff Organization in Congress* | - ⅓ of a congressman’s staff works in the home district, and almost all have at least one full-time district office. - Staff members also have legislative functions that include devising proposals, negotiating agreements, organizing hearings, and meeting with lobbyists and administrators.  - ***Congressional Research Service***; part of the Library of Congress and responds to congressional request for information - ***General Accountability Office***; role of auditing the money spent by executive departments. - ***Congressional Budget Office***; advises Congress on the likely economic effects of different spending programs and provides information on the costs of proposed policies. |
| **How A Bill Becomes a Law** |  |  - ***Multiple referrals;*** assigning distinct portions of the bill to different committees **- *Discharge petitions;***  in order to keep alive a bill that has stalled at the committee level, a discharge petition must be signed by 218 members in the House ***- Closed rules;***  limitations on the amount of debate time allotted to a bill and on the introduction of amendments **-*****Open rules;***  permits amendments from the floor on a particular piece of legislation and comes from the Rules Committee in the House.  **- *Restrictive rules;***  permits some amendments  **- *Quorum;***  the minimum number of representatives required to be in attendance to conduct official business. **- *Quorum call;***  a calling of the roll in either house of Congress to see whether there is a quorum present **- *Cloture rule;*** provides for the end of a debate on a bill if ⅗ of the members agree ***- Double tracking;*** a method keeping the senate going during a filibuster whereby a disputed bill is temporarily shelved so that the Senate can go on with other business.  **- *Voice vote;***  a method of voting between “yeas” and “nays” **- *Division vote;***  standing vote, a method of voting used in both houses in which members stand and are counted.  **- *Teller vote;***  a method of voting used only in the House. Votes are counted by having members pass between two tellers, first the yeas and then the nays.  ***- Roll- call vote;***  a method of voting used in both houses, members answer yea or nay when their names are called. |
| **Power and Ethics in Congress** |  | - Many americans favor term limits- high reelection rate of incumbents and the perception that career politicians act more out of self-interest than out of public interest. - But the Supreme Court ruled that term-limit proposals unconstitutional. - amateur legislators who would be less prone to compromise and more influenced by lobbyists. - reducing the power and perks of congressmen, claiming, franking privileges need to be regulated - pork- project aimed at benefiting a congressman’s home district or state need to be trimmed. - Ethics codes and related reforms enacted in 1978,1989, and 1995 have placed members of Congress under tight rules governing financial disclosure, caused by the money corruption.  |