**Chapter 11- Congress**

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Key Terms

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| 1 | Bicameral | A lawmaking body made up of two chambers or parts |
| 2 | Caucus | An association of Congress members created to advance a political ideology or a regional, ethnic, or economic interest |
| 3 | Closed Rule | An order from the House Rules Committee that sets a time limit on debate; forbids amending a bill on the floor |
| 4 | Cloture | Limits placed on debated in Senate to end filibusters |
| 5 | Cloture Rule | A rule used by the Senate to end or limit debate |
| 6 | Committee system |  |
| 7 | Conference committees | A joint committee appointed to resolve differences in the Senate and House versions of the same bill |
| 8 | Congressional Budget Office | Advises Congress on the likely economic effects of different spending programs and provides information on the costs of proposed policies. |
| 9 | Congressional Research Service | Part of the Library of Congress and responds to congressional requests for information. |
| 10 | Discharge petitions | A device by which any member of the House, after a committee has had a bill for thirty days, may petition to have it brought to the floor |
| 11 | Division Vote | A congressional voting procedure in which members stand and are counted |
| 12 | Double- Tracking | A procedure to keep the Senate going during a filibuster in which the disputed bill is shelved temporarily so that the senate can get on with other business |
| 13 | Filibuster | An attempt to defeat a bill in the Senate by talking indefinitely, thus preventing the Senate from taking action on the bill |
| 14 | Franking privileges | The ability of Congress members to mail letters to their constituents free of charge by substituting their facsimile signature for postage |
| 15 | General Accounting Office | (General Accounting Office) auditing the money spent by executive departments. Investigates agencies and policies and makes recommendations on almost every aspect of government.  |
| 16 | House Rules Committee | A committee that reviews all bills except revenue, budget, and appropriations bills coming from a House committee before the bills go to the full House.  |
| 17 | Incumbecy |  |
| 18 | Joint Committees | A Committee on which both senators and representatives serve |
| 19 | Majority Leader | The legislative leader elected by party members holding a majority of seats in the House or the Senate |
| 20 | Minority Leader | The legislative leader elected by party members holding a minority of seats in the House or the Senate |
| 21 | Multiple referrals | A congressional process whereby a bill may be referred to a several committees |
| 22 | Open Rule | An order from the House Rules Committee that permits a bill to be amended on the floor |
| 23 | Pork | Legislation that allows representatives to bring home the bacon to their districts in the form of public works programs, military bases, or other programs designed to benefit their districts directly |
| 24 | Presidential veto |  |
| 25 | President Pro Tempore | The official chair of the Senate; usually the most senior member of the majority party; aka”pro tem” |
| 26 | Quorum | The minimum number o0f members required to be in attendance for Congress to conduct official business |
| 27 | Restrictive rule | An order form the House Rules Committee that permits certain kinds of amendments but not others to be made to a bill on the floor |
| 28 | Roll-call vote | A congressional procedure that consists of members answering “yea” or “nay” to their names.  |
| 29 | Rule 22 | Enacted in 1917, allowed debate to be cut off if two-thirds of the senators present and voting agreed to a cloture motion to end debate.  |
| 30 | Safe District | District in which incumbents win by margins of 55 percent or more.  |
| 31 | Select Committees | Congressional committee appointed for a limited time and purpose |
| 32 | Seniority system | Describes the practice of granting privileges to members of Congress (Senators and Representatives) who have served the longest |
| 33 | Seventeenth Amendment | Senators were elected directly by the people and , as a consequence, became more interested in pleasing the general electorate.  |
| 34 | Speaker of the House | The only officer of the House of Representatives specifically mentioned in the Constitution; elected at the beginning of each new Congress by the entire House; traditionally a member of the majority party and the chamber’s most powerful position |
| 35 | Standing Committees | Permanently established legislative committee that considers and is responsible for legislation within a certain subject area |
| 36 | Subcommittees | A subordinate committee composed of members appointed from a main committee. |
| 37 | Teller vote | A congressional voting procedure in which members pass between two tellers, the “yeas” first and the “nays” second.  |
| 38 | Term Limits | A statutory restriction on the number of terms an official or officeholder may serve.  |
| 39 | Voice vote | A congressional voting procedure in which members shout “yea” in approval or “nay” in disapproval, permitting members to vote quickly or anonymously on bills. |
| 40 | Whip | Key member who keeps close contact with all members of his or her party and takes nose counts on key votes, prepares summaries of bills, and in general acts as a communications link within a party.  |