




FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The U.S. government is split into three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. Each is assigned a different task to separate power. The table below illustrates each branches main functions and key players.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	EXECUTIVE BRANCH	JUDICIAL BRANCH
<p data-bbox="277 428 412 457">Congress</p>  <ul data-bbox="188 617 532 867" style="list-style-type: none">• Makes laws• Approves presidential appointments• Two senators from each state• The number of House of Representatives is based on population	<p data-bbox="618 428 971 457">Headed by the President</p>  <ul data-bbox="618 617 987 842" style="list-style-type: none">• Signs laws• Vetos laws• Pardons people• Appoints federal judges• elected every 4 years, maximum of two terms (8 years).	<p data-bbox="1084 428 1403 457">Supreme Court Judges</p>  <ul data-bbox="1062 617 1430 842" style="list-style-type: none">• Decides if laws are constitutional• Are appointed by the president• There are 9 justices• Can overturn rulings by other judges

FEDERAL LEGISLATURE

Each state sends two Senators to represent their state in the U.S. Senate. In the House of Representatives, a state's representation is based on its population. For example, smaller states like Vermont have one representative while large states like California have 53 representatives.

DISTRICTS

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives each represent a portion of their state known as a Congressional District, which averages 700,000 people. Senators however, represent the entire state.

TERM LIMITS

Members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms and are considered for reelection every even year. Senators serve six-year terms and elections are staggered over even years, so only about 1/3 of the Senate is up for reelection during any election. There are no term limits for members of congress.

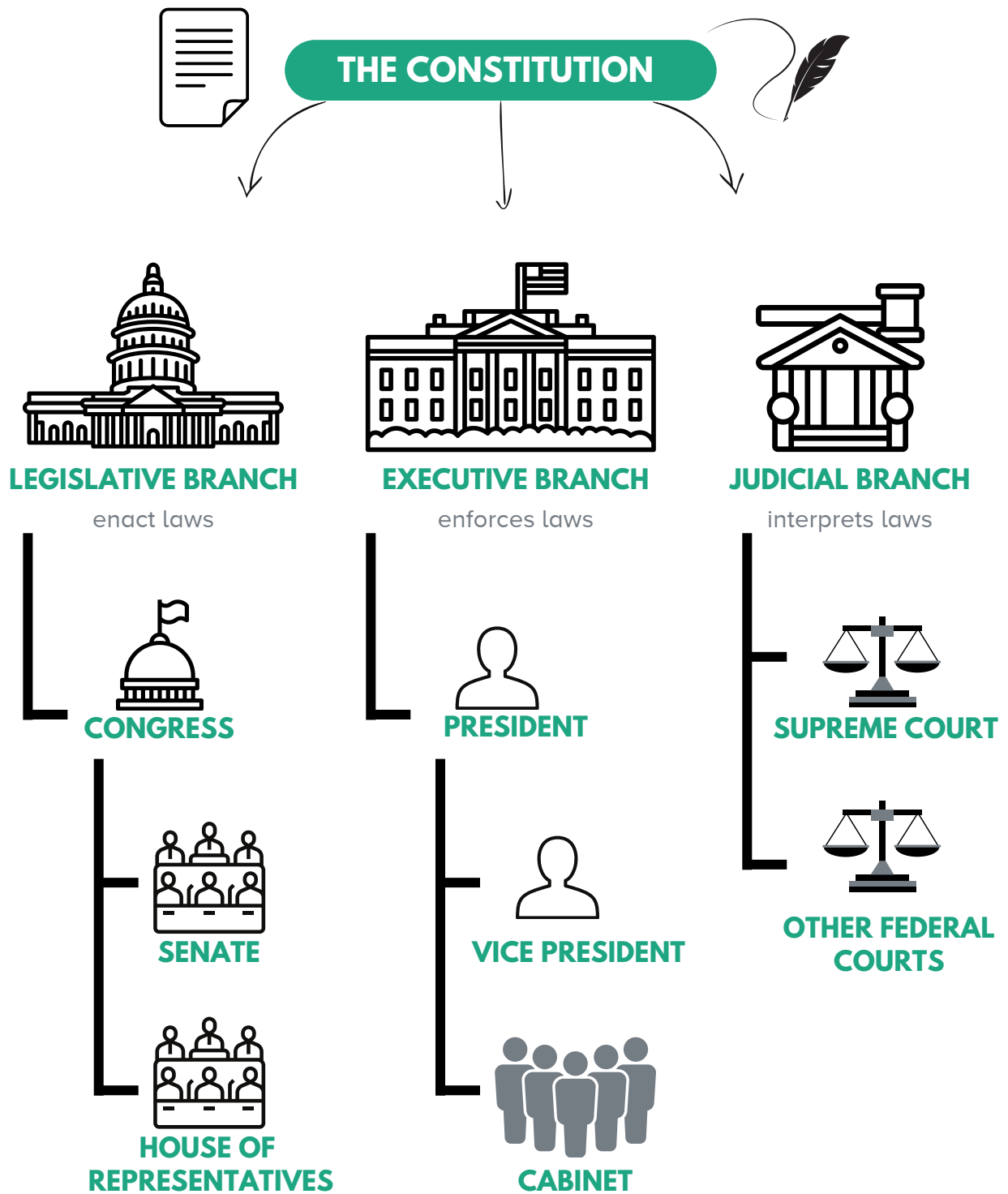
ELECTIONS

Congressional elections happen every two years. Midterm elections take place halfway between presidential elections. All U.S. House of Representatives are elected every midterm and presidential election year because they serve 2 years. Since Senators serve 6 year years One-third of senators get elected during each midterm and each presidential election year.

SESSION

Every two years the Senate convenes a new "congress," a two-year period of legislative business. Typically, a congress is divided into two annual sessions of the Senate, convened in early January and adjourned in December. On any given day, however, the Senate may meet in a variety of designated sessions to fulfill its legislative, executive, and constitutional duties.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN THE US

