

THE SENATE

What is the Senate?

The Senate is one of the two houses of Congress. The other house is the House of Representatives. Congress is the *legislative* branch of government. Congress meets in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. There are two senators from each state, with 100 total senators. Senators are elected by the voters in their state. Most senators are in one of the two main political parties—Republican or Democrat.

Below is a list of things that must be true if you want to be a senator:

1. Must be at least 30 years old
2. Must be a resident of the state where you are elected
3. Must have been a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years

During a
jobs.

1
2
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5. Amend the Constitution
6. Work on a committee
7. Make a speech about a bill
8. Listen to special interest groups and voters
9. Communicate with voters
10. Decide about taxes

There are many special names for people working in the Senate:

- **Congressional page** – young person who works for a Senator
- **Majority leader** – leader of the majority party
- **Minority leader** – leader of the minority party
- **Whip** – helps the floor leader keep in touch with the party
- **President of the Senate** – the vice president of the U.S.

Try This!

Underline the jobs that a Senator can help do.

make speeches
president

approve treaties

impeach the

vote on bills
government

break laws

steal from the

take bribes

amend the Constitution send letters to voters

Circle the two groups that make up Congress.

Supreme Court

Senate

Divorce Court

School Teachers Union

House of R

resident

Make an
senator.

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Ohio

Iowa teach

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Ohio truck driver

U.S. President

Indiana mayor

Kansas preacher

Ohio woman

vice president