

## Legislative Branch Vocabulary

Word/Term	Definition
<b>act</b>	legislation that has passed both houses of Congress, has been signed into law by the president, or passed despite his veto, and therefore becomes law
<b>appointment</b>	job or duty that is given to a person
<b>appointment confirmation</b>	the process of the Senate approving the president's choices for certain positions within the government
<b>bicameral</b>	having two chambers (e.g. the two houses of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives)
<b>bill</b>	a proposal for a law
<b>city commissioner or council member</b>	a member of the governing body of a city
<b>committee selection</b>	how representatives and senators are chosen for their assigned committees
<b>conference committee</b>	a temporary panel composed of House and Senate members, which is formed for the purpose of reconciling differences in legislation that has passed both chambers. Conference committees are usually convened to resolve differences on major and controversial legislation.
<b>constituents</b>	people public officials are elected to represent
<b>county commissioner or council member</b>	a member of the governing body of a county
<b>home rule</b>	self-government by citizens at the local level
<b>how a bill becomes a law</b>	the process of how a proposed law ("bill") moves through Congress and the president in order to become a law
<b>law</b>	a rule established by government or other source of authority to regulate people's conduct or activities
<b>legislature</b>	a group of organized people that have the authority to make laws for a political unit
<b>majority leader</b>	a position where a member of Congress is elected by the majority party to serve as the chief spokesperson for that party and to manage and schedule the business of either house
<b>majority party</b>	the political party with the most elected members
<b>majority vote</b>	more than half (50%) of the votes

<b>minority leader</b>	a position where a member of Congress is elected by the minority party to serve as the chief spokesperson for the party and to support the majority party in managing and scheduling the business of either house
<b>minority party</b>	the political party second in the number of elected members
<b>nominate</b>	to suggest a person for a position or office
<b>ordinance</b>	a law enacted by a city or county affecting local affairs such as traffic, noise, and animal control
<b>President Pro Tempore</b>	a high-ranking senator of the majority party who leads the U.S. Senate if the vice president is unable
<b>school board</b>	the group of persons elected to manage local public schools
<b>Speaker of the House</b>	an office identified in Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution; the leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, usually the highest ranking member of the majority party
<b>special committee</b>	a permanent committee established under the standing rules of both houses of Congress that focuses specific subject areas (e.g. Special Committee on Aging)
<b>special interest groups</b>	a group of people who are concerned with a particular issue and who try to influence legislators to act in their favor, also known as an interest group
<b>standing committee</b>	permanent committee that focuses on specific subject areas (e.g. Education and the Workforce Committee)
<b>state legislator</b>	a member of the Florida House of Representatives (state representative) or Florida Senate (state senator)
<b>state representative</b>	a member of the lower house of a state legislature (the Florida House of Representatives)
<b>state senator</b>	a member of the upper house of a state legislature (the Florida Senate)
<b>statute</b>	a law enacted at the state level
<b>U.S. Congress</b>	a two-part system of legislative branch that makes laws
<b>U. S. Representative</b>	a member of the U.S House of Representatives; representatives are elected in districts throughout each state
<b>U. S. Senator</b>	a member of the U.S. Senate elected to represent an entire state, there are two senators per state