



UNDERSTANDING CIVICS THROUGH ROBERT H. JACKSON

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Congress

OVERVIEW

The Legislative Branch, or Congress, includes the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the House of Representatives, the number of representatives per state is determined by the population. In the Senate, each state gets two elected officials.



POWERS



The Congress in charge of:

- Making laws
- Declaring war
- Overseeing public money

CHECKS

The Congress keeps an eye on other branches by:

- Approving Presidential appointments
- Investigating governmental misconduct (they can impeach the President).



DID YOU KNOW?



There are no term limits in Congress. In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, elected officials can serve for as many terms as they are elected to office.



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EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Enforces the Law

OVERVIEW

The Executive Branch consists of the President, the Vice President, the Cabinet, executive departments, committees, and other federal agencies.



POWERS

The President in charge of:

- Nominating heads of federal agencies
- Negotiating with other countries

CHECKS

The President keeps an eye on other branches by:

- Signing and/or Vetoing Laws
- Appointing Federal Judges
- Proposing policies



DID YOU KNOW?



Unlike Presidents, Vice Presidents do not have term limits. They could serve as Vice President for as many terms as they are elected and for as many different Presidents as they want!



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JUDICIAL BRANCH

“the least dangerous branch”

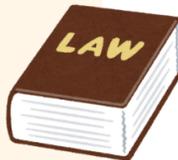
- Alexander Hamilton, Federalist #78

OVERVIEW

The Judicial Branch is responsible for interpreting laws, applying them to cases, and determining if any violate the Constitution. The highest court in the U.S. is the Supreme Court.



POWERS



The Judicial Branch in charge of:

- Examining laws

CHECKS

The Judicial Branch keeps an eye on other branches by:

- Overturning laws they deem unconstitutional



DID YOU KNOW?

There is nothing in the Constitution that says we should have nine Supreme Court Justices. In fact, the most we have had was ten and the lowest was five. The Judiciary Act of 1869 set the number at nine. An odd number prevents ties.

