

Helpful Legislative Branch Vocabulary

Congress: lawmakers who are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate

- *The U.S. **Congress** meets in the Capital Building in Washington, D.C.*

BASE WORD: **legislate:** (v) to make laws - *The job of a senator is to **legislate**.*

legislation: (n) a law - *Getting **legislation** passed by Congress is hard because so many people have to agree with the idea.*

legislator: (n) a lawmaker - *Chellie Pingree is a **legislator** from Maine.*

legislative: (adj) lawmaking - *The **legislative** branch is described in Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.*

legislature: (n) a group of lawmakers *The Congress is also called the **legislature**.*

bill: (n) an official proposal for a law that is sponsored by a Congressperson

- *Senator Susan Collins is one of the sponsors for a **bill** about modernizing the school lunch program to better serve students in underprivileged areas.*

committee: a small group of people who meet for some reason

- *All legislators are required to serve on a **committee** in order to become an expert on particular topic of interest to the U.S.A.*

floor: that which is currently the center or focus of attention

- *When a bill is ready to be discussed, it will be brought to the **floor**.*
- *We should all listen to the person who has the **floor**.*

majority: More than half – *To pass a law, a **majority** of the Congress must vote for it.*

- *The political party with the **majority** of members in the House of Representatives gets to control the House.*

The House **majority elects the leader, who is called the Speaker of the House.*

- *The political party with the **majority** of members in the Senate gets to control the Senate.*

The Senate **majority elects the leader who is called the Senate Majority Leader.*

lobbyist: a person who pushes the members of Congress to either vote yes or no on a bill that is being considered

- ***Lobbyists** are hired by a private company or a special interest group to make the opinions and needs of their employer clear to Congresspeople.*