VOCABULARY FOR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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| VOCABUALRY | DEFINITIONS |
| 1. Congress | The Legislative Branch of Government |
| 1. Gerrymander | An oddly shaped district designed to create the voting strength of a particular group |
| 1. Constituents | The people represented by an elected official. |
| 1. Resolution | A statement of opinion by the House and Senate without force of law. |
| 1. Senate | Part of the bicameral congress. It has 100 members, 2 from each state. |
| 1. Majority Leader | Leader of the party that has the most members of congress |
| 1. Minority Leader | Person who leads the Congressional party with fewer people |
| 1. Majority Whip | The person in Congress who belongs to the party with the **most** members and whose primary purpose is to ensure party discipline |
| 1. Minority Whip | The person in Congress who belongs to the party with the **fewest** members and whose primary purpose is to ensure party discipline |
| 1. Term of office | The amount of time a Congressperson will serve in their office. |
| 1. Congressional Election | Elections held every even numbered year to elect Senators and Representatives. |
| 1. Filibuster | A tactic for defeating a bill in the Senate by talking until the bill’s sponsor withdraws it. |
| 1. Franking Privilege | This allows Congress people to mail information to their constituents without any cost to them. |
| 1. Impeach | 1. The power of the House to bring formal charges against the President or Federal Judges. |
| 1. Legislative Process | The process in which a bill is written to congress and then sent to the president to sign as a law. |
| 1. Standing Committee | This type of committee is permanent and deals with a specific topic. |
| 1. Joint Committee | This type of committee includes members of both the House and Senate. |
| 1. Conference Committee | This type of committee includes members of both the House and Senate and is established to work out the wording of a bill so both houses can accept it. |
| 1. Veto | The power the president holds if he doesn’t want a bill to become law |
| 1. Pocket Veto | This happens if the President leaves legislation on his desk and the legislature adjourn during that time. |
| 1. Pork-barrel project/earmarks | Government projects that primarily benefit the home district or state of the Congress person. |
| 1. Special Interest   Group | A group that is interested in advancing a specific area of knowledge |
| 1. Pigeon Hole | Not taking any action on a bill in committee |
| 1. Rider | A completely unrelated amendment tacked on to a bill. |
| 1. Lobbyist | A person who takes part in an organized attempt to influence legislators. |
| 1. Cloture | This can end a filibuster. |
| 1. Speaker of the House | The Leader of the House of Representatives. |
| 1. House of Representatives | Part of the bicameral congress, it has 435 members and states are represented by population |
| 1. Necessary and Proper Clause   (Elastic Clause) | Allows Congress to carry out their expressed powers. |