**Legislative Branch —Congress Review Sheet**

Define and give the significance of the following words:

Constituents: Those people who elect and are represented by an elected official

Census: A count of the population of the US. This is used to reapportion the seats in the House of Representatives.

Gerrymander: To draw a voting district in an irregular shape to give an advantage to a certain group of people.

Necessary and Proper Clause: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution. Grants Congress any power “necessary and proper” to carry out their expressed powers. Gives implied powers to Congress. Sometimes called the elastic clause because it allows Congress to stretch their powers.

Filibuster: “Talking a bill to Death.” A stalling technique used by a Senator to delay vote on a certain bill or lead the author of that bill to remove it from debate and vote.

Franking Privilege: Members of Congress get free postage as long as they are mailing to their constituents.

Cloture: Sixteen Senators can ask for a vote of Cloture to end a filibuster. A simple majority, 51, Senators must vote for the cloture for it to go into effect. It will limit the debate time for a bill ending a chance for a filibuster

Lobbyist: A person who tries to persuade members of Congress to vote in a certain way.

Special Interest Groups: Groups who hire lobbyists and try to persuade member of congress to vote to

further their interests. .

1. Who is the most powerful member of the House of Representatives? The Speaker of the House. This position is second in line for the Presidency. He/she is the highest paid member of Congress.
2. What does the President Pro Tempore do? He/she is the highest elected official in the Senate. They preside when the President of the Senate is not present. They do most of the daily work. They are 3rd in line for the Presidency.
3. Which branch of government do we vote for directly? We vote for the Legislative Branch. The people have always voted for the House but originally the state legislatures. This was changed by the 17th Amendment to Senators being elected by the people directly.
4. Answer the following about the House of Representatives and the Senate:

SENATE HOUSE

* 1. Term of office 6 years 2 Years
  2. Size of each 100 435
  3. Qualifications 30 Years old, 9 Years a citizen 25 years old, 7 years a and live in the state from which citizen and live in the state they are elected. from which they are elected
  4. How many from each state 2 Depends on the population of the state.

1. How are electoral votes determined? How many are there?

For each state: Senators + Representatives + DC Votes = Total number of electoral votes

100 + 435 + 3= 538

1. How many electoral votes does Washington DC have? Three given by the 23rd Amendment
2. What is the difference between a standing and select committee? Standing committee is permanent and a select committee is temporary. Both deal with a specific matter
3. What is the role of a joint Congressional committee in the legislative process?

Usually referred to as a Conference Committee they will decide on the wording of a bill so both houses can pass it in the same form. This saves time.