




Who holds the power in the US political system?





3 Branches of the United States Government
(Separation of powers under Articles I, II, and III)

LEGISLATIVE- makes laws	EXECUTIVE - carries out laws	JUDICIAL- explains laws
		
<p align="center">CONGRESS</p> <p>must meet at least one time each year</p> <p>Senate</p> <p>--100 senators, 2 from each state</p> <p>--term: 6 years</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <p>-- 30 years old & citizen for 9 years</p> <p>Presiding officer</p> <p>--the Vice president, or</p> <p>--an elected <i>President pro tempore</i></p>	<p>President and Vice president</p> <p>--elected by the Electoral College who are elected by the people at the November general election</p> <p>--a person can be elected president only two times</p> <p>--term: 4 years</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <p>--at least 35 years old, born n the U.S.</p> <p>--lived in the U.S. for 14 years</p>	<p>Supreme Court</p> <p>-- 9 justices</p> <p>--serve for life unless impeached</p> <p>--appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate</p>
<p>House of Representatives</p> <p>--435 representatives, divided among the 50 states. States with larger population get more representatives.</p> <p>--term: 2 years</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <p>-- 25 years old & citizen for 7 years</p> <p>Presiding officer</p> <p>Speaker of the House</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>--14 cabinet departments</p> <p>--14 cabinet officers</p> <p>--appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate</p> <p>--term: determined by President. Serve as long as the President wants them</p> <p>--meet whenever the President wants</p>	<p>Circuit Court of Appeals</p> <p>12 courts throughout the U.S.</p> <p>--serve for life unless impeached</p> <p>--appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate</p> <p>District Courts</p> <p>91 trial courts throughout the U.S.</p> <p>--serve for life unless impeached</p> <p>--appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate</p>



3 BRANCHES *of* U.S. GOVERNMENT



 **Constitution**
(provided a separation of powers)



Legislative
(makes laws)



Congress



Senate



House of Representatives



Executive
(carries out laws)



President



Vice President



Cabinet



Judicial
(interprets laws)


























Supreme Court



Other Federal Courts

Below is a partial listing of the political parties that are covered on Ballotpedia.

-  : [2010 Peace Party](#)
-  : [Alaskan Independence Party](#)
-  : [American Independent \(CA\)](#)
-  : [Conservative Party](#)
-  : [Constitution Party](#)
-  : [Democratic Party](#) Most popular
-  : [Green Party](#) Popular
-  : [Independence Party of America](#)
-  : [Independent](#) (No party affiliation)
-  : [Independent American \(Nevada\)](#)
-  : [Justice for Vermonters Party](#)
-  : [Libertarian Party](#) Popular
-  : [Liberty Union Party](#)
-  : [Moderate Party](#)
-  : [Mountain Party](#)
-  : [Peace and Freedom Party](#)
-  : [Progressive Democratic Party](#)
-  : [Progressive Party \(Vermont\)](#)
-  : [Vermont-Independence Party](#)
-  : [Reform Party](#)
-  : [Republican Party](#) Most popular
-  : [Tea Party](#)
-  : [Working Families Party](#)