

## U.S. Congress

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution outlines the enumerated (expressed) powers of Congress.

- Lay and collect taxes.
- Borrow money.
- Regulate commerce.
- Establish rules for naturalization (process of becoming a citizen).
- Coin money and regulate its value.
- Punish counterfeiting.
- Establish a post office and post roads.
- Issue patents and copyrights.
- Define and punish piracy and crimes against the law of nations.
- Create courts inferior to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Declare war.
- Raise and support an army and navy.
- Provide for the militia.
- Exercise legislative powers over the District of Columbia and other federal facilities.
- Make all laws “necessary and proper” for carrying out these powers (elastic clause is the basis for the implied powers).

### Constitutional and Operational Differences

House of Representatives	Senate
-435 members	-100 members
-2 year terms	-6 year terms
-initiates all revenue (tax) bills	-approves Presidential appointments and treaties
-initiates impeachment procedures	-conducts impeachment trial
-more centralized	-less centralized
-stronger party leadership	-weaker party leadership
-rules and length of debate strict	-endless debate, but with use of the filibuster
-power distributed less evenly	-power distributed evenly
-individual members less powerful	-individuals have more power and independence
-members are highly specialized	-members are generalists
-emphasizes tax and revenue policy	-emphasizes foreign policy
-power revolves around Speaker's inner circle of advisers	-filibusters more frequent
-procedures are more efficient	-more difficult to pass legislation
-turnover is relatively high, but those seeking reelection usually win	-turnover is moderate