



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS

Basic Government Processes

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3 Branches of Government



Legislative
(makes laws)

Executive
(carries out the laws)

Judicial
(evaluates the laws)



3 Branches of Government



- **Legislative (makes laws)**
 - **Congress – 2 chambers (House and Senate)**
 - **House: 435 members, number determined by state population, term is 2 years**
 - **Senate: 100 members, 2 per state, term is 6 years**

3 Branches of Government



- **Executive (carries out the laws)**
 - President, Vice President, Cabinet

3 Branches of Government



- **Judicial (evaluates the laws)**
 - U.S. Supreme Court
 - Federal Courts

How a Bill Becomes a Law



1. **Someone has idea for a law**
2. **Idea gets written into a bill and goes to one chamber of Congress**
3. **Bill goes to committee in that chamber in charge of that topic**
4. **If committee passes bill, goes to the floor**
5. **If passes the floor of one chamber, goes to the other chamber and repeats the process**
6. **If passes next chamber, goes to President for approval**
7. **If President signs the bill, it becomes a law!**
8. **If President doesn't sign it ("veto"), then it goes back to Congress.**
9. **Congress can overturn the veto with a 2/3 vote (but this rarely happens)**

Differences Between Federal, State, and Local Governments



- **Federal: like the “big boss of the country”**
 - Issues that affect everyone in the country
 - Declares war, regulates trade, prints money, conducts foreign policy

Differences Between Federal, State, and Local Governments



- **State:**
 - Issues that affect everyone in the state
 - Administers public education systems, conducts elections, regulates state highways and state businesses

Differences Between Federal, State, and Local Governments



- **Local:**
 - **City or county level**
 - **Oversees police and fire departments, zoning and land use, public schools (along with state oversight), road maintenance, sanitation**

THANK YOU!

