



What is the U.S. House of Representatives?

The U.S. House of Representatives, known also as the “People’s House” is one of two chambers that make up Congress (the other being the U.S. Senate), which is the legislative branch in the federal government. There are a total of 435 representatives in the country. The number of representatives in each state varies based on population size, which is determined every ten years following the United States Census. In Ohio, there are currently 15 elected members to the House of Representatives. <https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained>

How long is U.S. Representative’s term? Are there term limits?

U.S. Representatives serve two-year terms. All 435 members of the House of Representatives are up for reelection every two years, and there are no term limits.

<https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained>

Are U.S. Representatives political actors?

Yes, U.S. Representatives are politicians and are affiliated with a political party. Typically, candidates must first win a state primary in order to win a political party’s nomination. From there, candidates advance to the general election, where they campaign against the candidate from the opposing political party.

What are the responsibilities of U.S. Representatives?

- **Legislation:** The primary responsibility of members of the House of Representatives, as described in the U.S. Constitution, is to write and pass laws for the United States. In order for a bill to become law, a member of the House must first sponsor the bill. Once sponsored, bills are assigned to a committee, where it is debated and reviewed amongst members. If the committee decides to move forward, it releases the bill to the entire House. Once the bill is brought to the floor of the House, it can be debated and amended. All bills require a simple majority to pass.

If passed in the House, the piece of legislation is sent to the Senate. In order for the bill to become law, both chambers of Congress must vote in favor of it and the President must sign off. <https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained/the-legislative-process>

- **Impeachment:** Members in the House of Representatives have the sole power to impeach federal officials, including the President. Members can bring articles of impeachment to the floor of the House, where members utilize their oversight and investigatory powers to determine if the elected official is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. If a simple majority in the House votes to impeach the official, the investigation moves the Senate. Senators have the sole power to convict or acquit someone who has been impeached. <https://history.house.gov/Institution/Origins-Development/Impeachment/>
- **Presidential Elections:** In the rare instance there is a tie in the electoral college, members of the House of Representatives vote to choose a President among the tied candidates. <https://history.house.gov/Institution/Origins-Development/Electoral-College/>

What is House leadership?

Within the House of Representatives, there are several leadership roles taken by elected members. Three of the main roles are:

- **Speaker of the House:** The Speaker of the House is elected by members of the House of Representatives to serve in this role. They guide the legislative agenda of the House, and are responsible for administrative duties. The Speaker of the House is second in line to succeed the President, after the Vice President. <https://history.house.gov/People/Office/Speakers/>
- **House majority leader:** Majority leaders are members of the controlling political party. Their main role is to keep their party united and support the party's legislative agenda. This position is elected by House members of their same party. <https://history.house.gov/People/Office/Majority-Leaders/>
- **House minority leader:** Similar to the majority leader, House minority leaders are elected by party membership every two years. The minority leader acts as the main opposition to the Speaker of the House. The House leadership has power in choosing committee assignments for its members. <https://history.house.gov/People/Office/Minority-Leaders/>

What are House committees?

Within the U.S. House of Representatives, there are currently 20 committees. Committees focus on specific issues, and consider and recommend bills for full House consideration. Typically, U.S. Representatives serve on 2 committees. Some examples of committees are: Ethics, Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform. <https://clerk.house.gov/help#CommitteeFAQs>

What are the requirements of running for U.S. Representative?

Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years, and be a resident of the state, but not necessarily the district, they represent.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-legislative-branch>

Questions for U.S. Representative candidates:

- Do you support a person's right to bodily autonomy, including the right to abortion? Will you support the Women's Health Protection Act?
 - Do you support expanding the Voting Rights Act, protecting the right to vote, and ending partisan gerrymandering in both state and federal elections?
 - Are you committed to protecting American's digital privacy? Do you support the Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act?
 - Will you support legislation that ends the failed War on Drugs?
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How do I find my U.S. Representative?

Visit house.gov and enter your zip code in the search bar under the "Find Your Representative" box at the top of the page.