



**BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA'S**

# **Real Talk Series: Civics for Everyone**

**Virtual Training Session & Workbook**



# Welcome

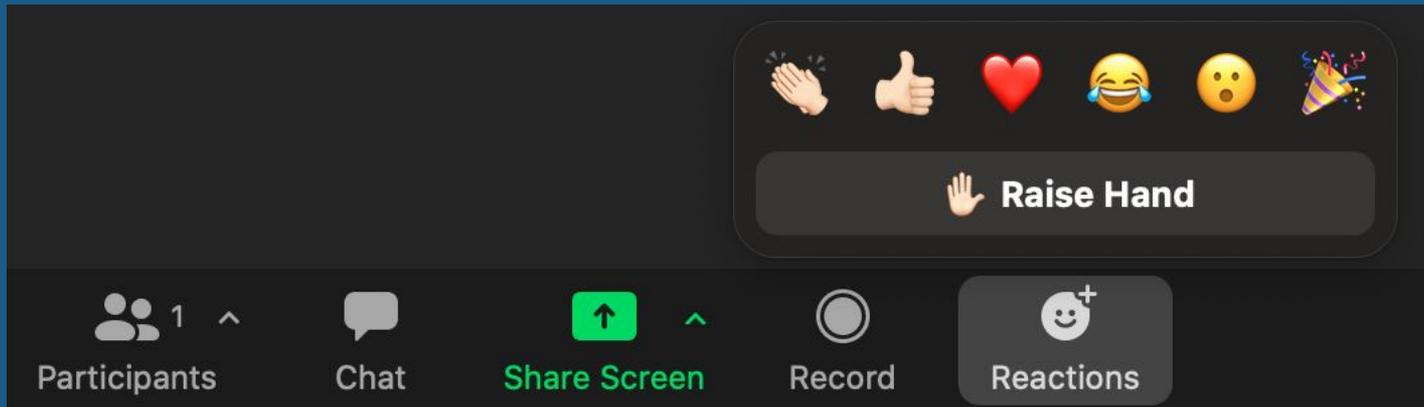
Tonight's Speakers:  
Jenny Okamoto, Grassroot Organizer  
Terry Mumford, Associate

# Friendly Norms

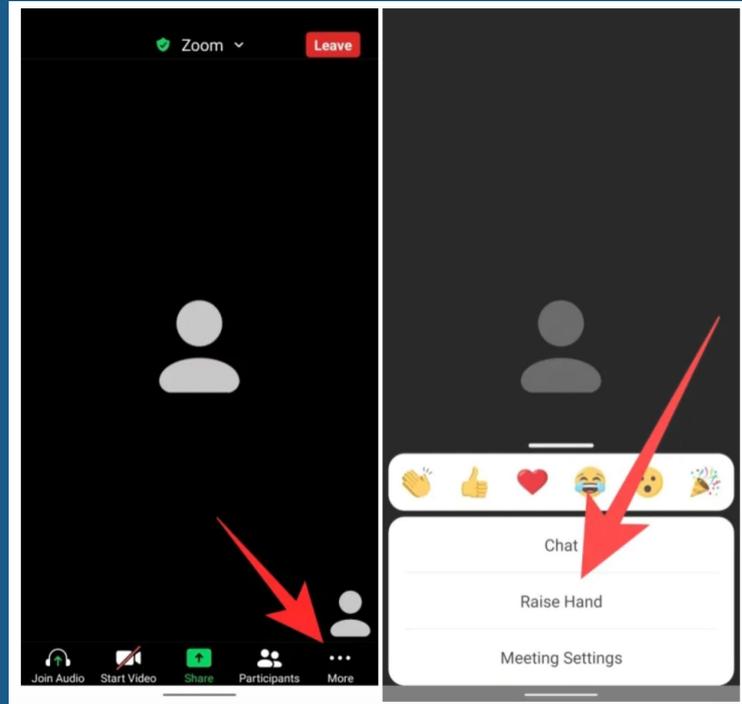
- Please keep yourself muted unless you are speaking
- Introduce yourself in the chat, where are you from, and campaigns you have worked with and if this is your first BB Grassroots Meeting
- Post questions in the chat
- There will be a Q & A at the end
- Meeting will be 1-hour
- Thank you for joining us!



# Raising Hand on a Computer/Tablet



# Raising Hand on Phone



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[Take Action](#)

[Volunteer's Toolbox](#)

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# BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA



Supporting grassroots  
organizers, candidates,  
and causes.

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[www.buildingbridgesforamerica.com](http://www.buildingbridgesforamerica.com)

# BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA

## Our Mission

Guided by the principles of servant leadership, Building Bridges mobilizes and empowers networks of relational grassroots organizers equipped to support campaigns and causes based in progressive values.

## Our Values

We recognize that the effort adds value, regardless of the result.

We are committed to the development of a broad and inclusive coalition.

We conduct our actions and are informed by the legacy of Pete Buttigieg's 2020 Campaign's Rules of the Road.

## Our Vision

A just and equitable democracy, safeguarded by an informed and engaged electorate, where everyone is valued and belongs.

Respect Belonging Truth Teamwork Boldness Responsibility Substance Discipline Excellence Joy



# Training Packages

## POWER

Unlock Your Political Power  
Conversations that Break Through  
Making the Hard Ask  
Pop the Disinformation Bubble



## TEAM

Grassroots Organizing for Change  
Say This, Not That  
Events for Change  
Facebook Activist to Change Maker



## CIVICS

Civics for Everyone  
Civics for Change



## Building Bridges for America

Empower yourself & your volunteers

Build and train your team

Know the system to fix the system

# Terry Mumford

Partner, Law Firm – Lobbyist and Governmental  
Benefits

Associate University Counsel

Dep. Director, Legislative Services Agency

Legislative Director, Governor's Office

Chief Legal Counsel, House of Representatives



Let's talk Civics!

# Workshop Goals -What's At Stake? What Should We Know?

- US Constitution
- Federal Legislation
- Elections
- State Government



# Workshop Goals - Knowledge that leads to Action!

➤ Your voice and your vote matter!

“I said ‘Somebody should do something about that.’ Then I realized I am somebody.”

— Lily Tomlin



That's Unconstitutional!!



# That's Unconstitutional!!

- What can be unconstitutional? – a law itself, its interpretation, or its implementation
- Why would the law be unconstitutional? – if it violates express and implied powers & protections granted by the constitution.
- Who determines constitutionality? – Determined by the courts



# That's Unconstitutional!!

## What is in the Constitution?

- 7 Articles – structure and operation
- 27 Amendments



# The U.S. Constitution

## The Articles (1789)

1-3 The Structure of the Government

4,6,7 The Federal Government and the States



- **Article I Legislative: Lawmaking**
  - The Congress, House of Representatives & Senate
- **Article II Executive: Execute the Laws**
  - President, Vice-President
- **Article III Judicial: Interpret the Laws**
  - US Supreme Court and other federal Courts
- **Article IV: Full Faith and Credit**
  - States honor other states laws
  - Extradition
  - Creation of a new state



# The Constitution

## The Articles (1789), cont.

1-3 The Structure of the Government

4,6,7 The Federal Government and the States

- Article V Amendments to the Constitution
- Article VI “Supremacy Clause”
  - The Constitution and federal laws take priority over state laws
- Article VII Approval of the Constitution



# A System of Checks and Balances

Legislative Authority is checked and balanced by:

Executive branch through veto power and serves as a tie-breaker in the Senate.

Executive authority is checked and balanced by:

The Legislative branch by oversight, approval of appointments (judges, department heads, etc.) and treaties, veto overrides ( $\frac{2}{3}$  of members), and impeachment

Judicial authority is checked and balanced by:

The Executive branch through the appointment of judges

Legislative branch through the approval of appointments and the power of impeachment of judges.



# Ketanji Brown Jackson, Associate Justice-Designate

## “Presidents are not kings” (2019)

- Our Constitutional scheme – the design of our government – is erected to prevent tyranny
- Split powers vertically – federalism – federal and state government
- Split powers horizontally – legislative, executive, judicial –
  - Separation of powers is crucial to keep government from becoming too powerful and encroaching on our liberty



# The Amendments to the Constitution

## Bill of Rights - Amendments 1-10 (1791) - Limits on the federal government

- Amd 1 Freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly; the right to petition the government.
- Amd 2 Right to bear arms
- Amd 3 Troops may not be quartered in homes in peacetime
- Amd 4 No unreasonable searches or seizures
- Amd 5 Procedures for criminal prosecutions:
  - Grand Jury indictment required for felony charges in federal court
  - Double jeopardy clause prevents a person from being tried twice for the same crime
  - A defendant cannot be forced to testify. “Plead the fifth”
- Amd 6 Right to speedy, public, impartial trial by jury with defense counsel and right to cross-examine witnesses.
- Amd 7 Civil jury trials in federal cases
- Amd 8 No excessive bail or fines, no cruel and unusual punishment
- Amd 9 Unlisted rights are not necessarily denied
- Amd 10 Powers not delegated to the United States or denied to the states are reserved to the states

# More Amendments to Know

- Amd 12 (1804) Electoral College
  - Electoral College officially elects President and Vice President
  - Each state's electors equals the number of Senators and Representatives
- Amd 13 (1865) Abolition of slavery
- Amd 14 (1868) Citizenship and protection – After World War II, Supreme Court ruled the 14th Amendment extends Bill of Rights to protect individuals from state action
  - Citizenship Clause
  - Privileges or Immunities Clause
  - Due Process Clause
  - Equal Protection Clause
- Amd 15 (1870) Voting rights
- Amd 25 (1967) Presidential inability to perform duties

# Is there a 28th Amendment? – ERA

- Article V – Constitution may be amended with ratification of  $\frac{3}{4}$  states – currently 38
- ERA adopted in 1972 with 7-year timeline. Only 35 states adopted within the timeline. 3 states have recently adopted (Nevada 2017, Illinois 2018, Virginia 2020) – Does that count?



Justice Breyer – “The Constitution is a recipe for an effective democracy.”  
“Democracy should work – it is not a painting in a museum.”



## For Example: The Constitution and Marriage

- **Loving v. Virginia (1967)** – The Supreme Court found that Virginia’s laws banning interracial marriage violated the 14th amendment’s guarantee of due process and equal protection. As a result, **all race-based laws in all states** were struck down. **June 12 – “Loving Day”**
- **Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)** – The Supreme Court found that state same-sex marriage bans are a violation of the 14th Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. **The ruling requires all fifty states to perform and recognize the marriages of same-sex couples on the same terms and conditions as the marriages of opposite-sex couples**, with all the accompanying rights and responsibilities.

NOTE: The right to marry is not specifically stated in the Constitution -- but has been characterized by courts as a “fundamental right” under the Constitution.

## For Example: The Constitution and Reproductive Rights

- **Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)** – The Supreme Court struck down a ban on the use or sale of contraceptives to married couples because it violated the constitutional right to privacy.
- **Eisenstadt v. Baird (1972)** – The Court extended this right to contraception to unmarried people – “the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child.”

NOTE: The right to privacy is a fundamental right under these cases.

# The Constitution and Reproductive Rights, cont.

- **Roe v. Wade (1973)** – The Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment's Due Process Clause provides a right to privacy that protects a pregnant woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. But it also ruled that this right is not absolute after viability. Established different standards for each trimester.
- **Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)** – Moved away from the trimester standards and focussed on viability. States have leeway to regulate abortions so long as no undue burden on women.

NOTE: The right to privacy is a fundamental right under these cases.

- **AND NOW – Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022)** – Mississippi law bans abortion after 15 weeks with narrow exceptions for medical emergencies.

## The Leaked Opinion – The Dobbs Case

*Politico* published a 2/10/2022 draft opinion written by Justice Alito for a majority of the Supreme Court –upholding the Mississippi law and overruling Roe and Casey. It is reported that the majority includes Coney Barrett, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Thomas.



## The Leaked Opinion – The History Test

“The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including ... the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. That provision has been held to guarantee some rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution, but such rights must be ‘deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition’ and ‘implicit in the concept of ordered liberty.’”



## The Leaked Opinion – Alito’s “Solution”

“Our decision . . . allows women on both sides of the abortion issue to seek to affect the legislative process by influencing public opinion, lobbying legislators, voting, and running for office.”

“Women are not without electoral or political power.”



## Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) – What’s at Stake

In connection with the confirmation hearings for Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Sen. Braun stated his opposition to justices that support legal activism. Examples of legal activism include the landmark decision legalizing abortion. The Supreme Court shouldn’t “homogenize” issues leaving them up to the individual states to decide – which extends to include interracial marriage. “If you’re not wanting the Supreme Court to weigh in on issues like that, you’re not going to be able to have your cake and eat it, too. I think that’s hypocritical.”



# Things to Think About

- Alito's decision opens the door for federal legislation banning abortion
- More than 1/2 the states are poised to ban or severely limit abortions
- Despite Alito's protestations that he is not jeopardizing other rights, the history test would clearly put the rights of historically disenfranchised people at risk.
- The most important election is always the next one.



# The Second Amendment

- **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)**: The U.S. Supreme Court held (5–4) that the 2nd Amendment guarantees an individual right to possess firearms independent of service in a state militia and to use firearms for traditionally lawful purposes, including self–defense within the home.
  - The court: because the framers understood the right of self–defense to be “the central component” of the right to keep and bear arms, the 2nd Amendment implicitly protects the right “to use arms in defense of hearth and home.”
- **McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)** : The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5–4) that the
- 2nd Amendment applies to state and local governments through the 14th Amendment
- **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022?)** A majority of justices are seem set to strike down the state’s century–old handgun licensing requirement. But will the majority signal that other licensing measures created by government officials are now constitutionally suspect?



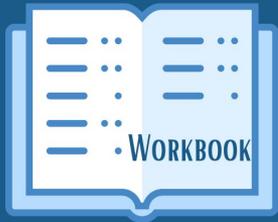
# Could We Fix SCOTUS?

- # Justices set by Congress – 1789 – 9 justices (1 is chief justice)
- Justices nominated by President and approved by Senate
- Biden established Presidential Commission – Final Report 12/2021– Congress can enlarge the court. Term limits (18 yrs) require Constitutional Amendment. Endorse an advisory code of ethics. Suggest changes to management of court’s emergency docket.



There Ought to be a Law!!!





## CONGRESS: THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW!

How a bill becomes a law in five "easy" steps.

### Bill to a Law

#### STEP 1

**The bill is drafted and introduced to either the House or Senate**



#### STEP 2

**The bill goes to committee**

Step 2a: Subcommittee review

Step 2b: Committee mark up of the bill

Step 2c: Committee "votes bill out" to the full "chamber"



#### STEP 3

**Voting by the full chamber on the bill**

Step 3a: Bill may be amended

Step 3b: Floor debate, unlimited debate unless Senate votes for "cloture" to vote or filibuster, minimum of 60 votes needed.



#### STEP 4

**Referral of bill to the other chamber,**

Repeat steps 2 & 3



#### STEP 5

**Bill is passed**

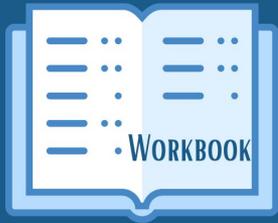
The identical bill is passed by each chamber, then sent to President for their approval.



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## RULES TO KNOW



### WHAT IS A FILIBUSTER?

Senate rules allow a "filibuster"- a delay of action on legislation. Traditionally a filibuster was intended to open debate on the legislation, Use of the filibuster has evolved to allow Senators to call a filibuster without opening the issue to debate, and the legislation is not considered. A filibuster can be stopped by a "cloture" vote. The filibuster does not apply to reconciliation, appointment of judges and the cabinet. The filibuster rule can be changed or amended by the Senate.

### WHAT IS CLOTURE?

Cloture ends debate on a bill and submits it for a vote - requires 60 votes

### WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

Reconciliation is any measure (bill, resolution) pertaining to revenue, taxes, and debt limit and can be approved by a simple majority (51 votes in Senate).

### WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT ARE WE?

"Federal" (3 levels of government), "representative, democratic" (people have means to control government), "republic "(people choose elected delegates)-

*Our American Government 2003*



# WHO'S WHO IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE?



## Who are the Senators?

100 Senators

- 2 per state, regardless of population,
- Serve 6 year terms

Senate Leadership

- The Vice-President of the United States serves as the President of the Senate and gets a vote in the case of a tie.
- President Pro Tempore - Majority Leader
- Minority Leader - Leader of the Minority Party
- Each party leadership includes
  - Whip
  - Conference Chair

## Who are the House of Representatives

435 Representatives or Congresspersons

- Will hear them referred to as "congresspersons" because they represent congressional districts in their respective states.
- Total number is set by federal statute
- Each state has at least 1
- The total per state (greater than 1) is based on population or "apportionment"
- 2-year terms
- State legislatures determine the "districts" represented

House Leadership

- Speaker of the House
- Majority Leader
- Minority Leader
- Each party's leadership includes
  - Whip
  - Conference Chair



The Speaker of the House  
is third in line for the  
Presidency



# the U.S. House of Representatives



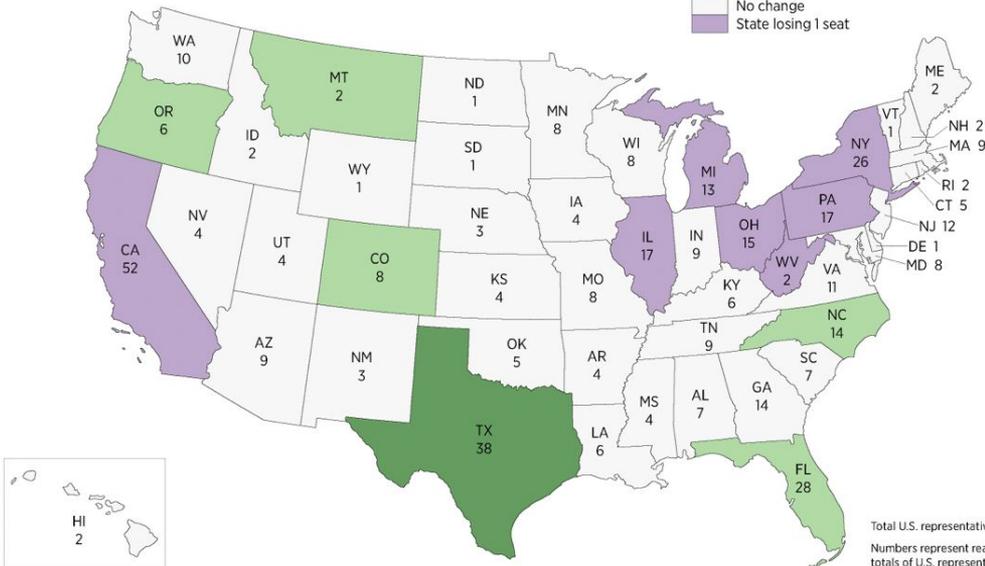
APRIL 26, 2021



## Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census

### Change from 2010 to 2020

- State gaining 2 seats
- State gaining 1 seat
- No change
- State losing 1 seat



Total U.S. representatives: 435  
Numbers represent reapportioned totals of U.S. representatives.

# What federal races are you following closely?

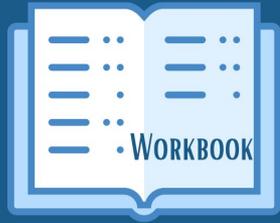
Type in the chat

- Every U.S. Congressperson is up for election in November 2022
- 34 of the U.S. Senators are up for election in 2022



Throw the bums out!





## "THROW THE BUMS OUT!" TYPES OF ELECTIONS



# Elections

### General Election

An election to fill a public office-for federal offices elections happen in even number years.

### Primary Election

An election to place a candidate on the ballot for the general election on a political party's "ticket".

### Open Primary

Voter selects a party on election day in order to pick which candidates they wish to voter for.

### Closed Primary

Only voters who are registered with a party may vote in that party's primary

### Top Two Open Primary Systems

All candidates for all parties are listed by office, the top two with the most votes compete in the general election.

### Run-Off Primary/Election

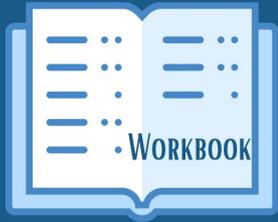
A follow-up primary or election when no candidate wins the majority - typically at least 50%.

### Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, they are declared the winner. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. The second choice votes are added to the vote totals until a candidate meets the minimum threshold (i.e. 50%)



## Election Jargon - A Baker's dozen



### Absentee Ballot

A ballot completed and typically mailed in advance of an election by a voter who is unable to be present at the polls.

### Ballot Initiative

A procedure allowed in a number of states under which citizens are able to vote to change a law.

### Battleground States

A large state with an electorate split relatively evenly between Democrats and Republicans - so named because candidates spend a disproportionate amount of time and money campaigning there.

### Blue State

A state where people tend to vote for the Democratic Party.

### Candidate Committee

A committee formed by a candidate to accept contributions and make expenditures under the candidate's authority to support a bid for election.

### Congressional District

A territorial division of a state from which a member of the U.S. House of Representatives is elected.

### FEC (Federal Election Commission)

The Federal Election Commission enforces federal campaign finance laws, including monitoring donation prohibitions and limits, and oversees public funding for presidential campaigns.

### Gerrymandering

The practice of drawing political constituency maps to increase a particular candidate's or party's advantage in a subsequent election.

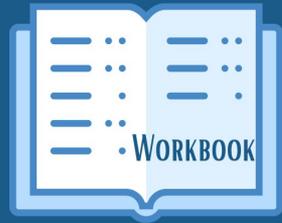
### (PAC) Political Action Committee

An organization formed to promote its members' views on selected issues, usually by raising money that is used to fund candidates who support the group's position.

### Popular Vote

The votes made directly for a candidate.





## ELECTION JARGON - A BAKER'S DOZEN CONT'D

### Precinct

A voting district-the smallest unit into which electoral districts are divided. Precinct chairs often elect party officials.

### Red State

A state where people tend to vote for the Republican Party.

### Registered Voter

A citizen who has registered with election officials in order to become eligible

## ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

While the Federal Government has jurisdiction over federal elections, most elections are decided at the state level.

### STATE ROLE

- State law generally governs elections that occur in that state.
- State and local officials are primarily responsible for conducting elections.
- The Secretary of State's Office and/or County Clerks are often good resources.

### FEDERAL ROLE

- Remember the 13th Amendment-The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- The FEC (Federal Election Committee) is responsible for disclosing campaign finance information, enforcing limits, prohibitions on contributions, and overseeing the public funding of presidential elections.

For instance the States responded to the pandemic with changes in election procedures (i.e. vote by mail qualifications, drop boxes, extended voting hours and days).



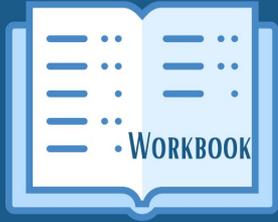
Will the Alito Decision have an impact  
on elections in your state?

Type in the Chat



State Government: It is the same but  
different





# "IT'S THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT"

## Each State Has a Constitution

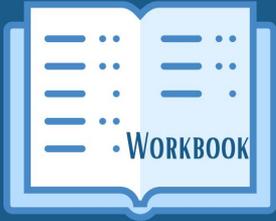
- State constitutions follow federal governmental structure
- 3 branches of government
  - Legislative
  - Executive
  - Judicial
- A state constitution may include areas not covered by the federal constitution and may offer greater protections, but a state constitution cannot conflict with the federal constitution.

## Branches of Government (example Indiana)

- Legislative Branch
  - The General Assembly
  - Part-time, Citizen Legislature
  - 100 House Members, elected to two-year terms, each representing a district.
    - 71 Republicans, 29 Democrats
    - Speaker of the House - Todd Huston
    - Minority Leader - Phil GiaQinta
  - 50 Senators, elected for four-year terms, each representing a district.
    - 39 Republicans, 11 Democrats
    - Lieutenant Governor - President of the Senate
    - Pro-tem- Rodric Bray
    - Minority Leader - Greg Taylor
  - Republicans have a supermajority (more than 2/3) in each house. All actions can be taken without Democrat involvement.
  - Session dates
    - Long Sessions- in odd numbered years (must adopt budget)

## State Government





# "IT'S THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT"

## Branches of Government (Indiana cont'd)

- Short Sessions in even numbered years
- Special Sessions- at the call of the Governor
- Redistricting - Legislature "draws" congressional districts and districts for state senators and state representatives
  - Districts are drawn after the decennial (10 year) census by the legislature
  - Finding my legislator [www.in.iga.gov](http://www.in.iga.gov)

What is Gerrymandering? Drawing districts to achieve an unfair advantage for one party. Check out Common Cause of Indiana about non-partisan proposals for fair redistricting.

## How does a bill become a law

- Drafted by Legislative Services Agency for Representative or Senator
- Introduced by Representative or Senator
- First Reading - assigned to committee
- Heard in Committees - amendment and passed to the Floor-or dies in committee
- Second Reading - Action on the Floor-amendments allowed
- Third Reading -Yes or no by majority vote
- Transmittal to the other chamber for a repeat of the process
- If the identical bill is passed by both chambers, it goes to the Governor for action - signature, veto, or approval without signature after 7 days

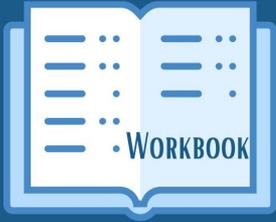
The House & Senate are each referred to as "chambers"  
A bill is on the "Floor" of the chamber if it is being considered by all members.

State Government



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## "IT'S THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT"

### The Executive Branch

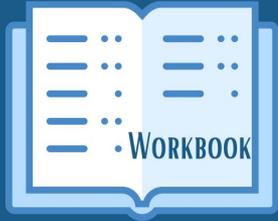
- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, and Agencies
- Indiana has a "weak Governor" system, which means that a simple majority vote of both chambers can override a veto.
- Implements legislative directives enacted by the legislature

### The Judicial Branch

- Supreme Court - highest court in Indiana
- Court of Appeals
- Circuit Courts
- Superior Courts

State Government





## WHO IS IN CHARGE? THE STATES OR FEDS?



### The States

Don't forget about the 10th Amendment! Any power not specifically given to the federal government by the Constitution belongs to the States and the people.

- Ownership of property
- Education of inhabitants
- Implementation of welfare and other benefits programs
- Protecting people from local threats
- Maintaining a justice system
- Setting up local governments -- counties and municipalities
- Maintaining state highways and administering local roads
- Regulation of Industry
- Raising funds to support their activities
- Elections - Secretary of State
- Insurance

### The Feds

But don't forget the Supremacy Clause and the Interstate Commerce Clause

- The federal constitution prohibits states from interfering with federal government's exercise of its constitutional powers, and from assuming any functions that are exclusively entrusted to the federal government.
- The federal constitution gives Congress and not the states the power to regulate interstate commerce.

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## Homework -

- Prepare a chart of the structure and office holders of your state government
- Who is YOUR state representative?  
YOUR state senator?



## Homework –

Sign up for next week’s training on “Civics for Change” and all of our other trainings – and we’ll talk about reaching out to policy makers and being good communicators

“If the court overturns Roe v. Wade, it will be a direct assault on freedom.” – VP Kamala Harris





*Discussion Time*





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Every week on Tuesdays & Thursdays

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## Political Organizing Classes

11 free and accessible  
courses and workbooks  
for volunteers by volunteers.

# IT'S GO TIME!

## STEP UP AND LEARN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2022!

**Unlock Your Political  
Power**

**Conversations that  
Break Through**

**Making the Hard  
Ask**

**Pop the  
Disinformation  
Bubble**

**Civics for Everyone**

**Civics for Change**

**Say This, Not That:  
The Importance of  
Effective  
Messaging**

**Grassroots  
Organizing for  
Change**

**Events for Change**

**Facebook Activist to  
Change Maker**

**Local Leaders and  
Precinct Chairs**



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# BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA LEADERSHIP TEAM

## JENNY OKAMOTO

Director Leadership Development, Building Bridges  
for America

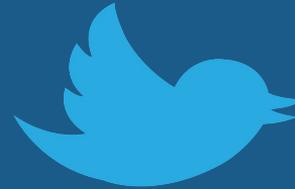
## CAZ MARGENAU

Director Leadership Development, Building Bridges  
for America

## TERRY MUMFORD

Associate, Leadership Development, Building  
Bridges for America

Give us a follow on social media,  
@buildbridges4america!





Learn more and register at  
[www.buildingbridgesforamerica.com](http://www.buildingbridgesforamerica.com).

Thank you for joining us.