



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA
presents

Civics 101

Learn the basics they no longer teach in school.



Welcome

Tonight's Hosts:

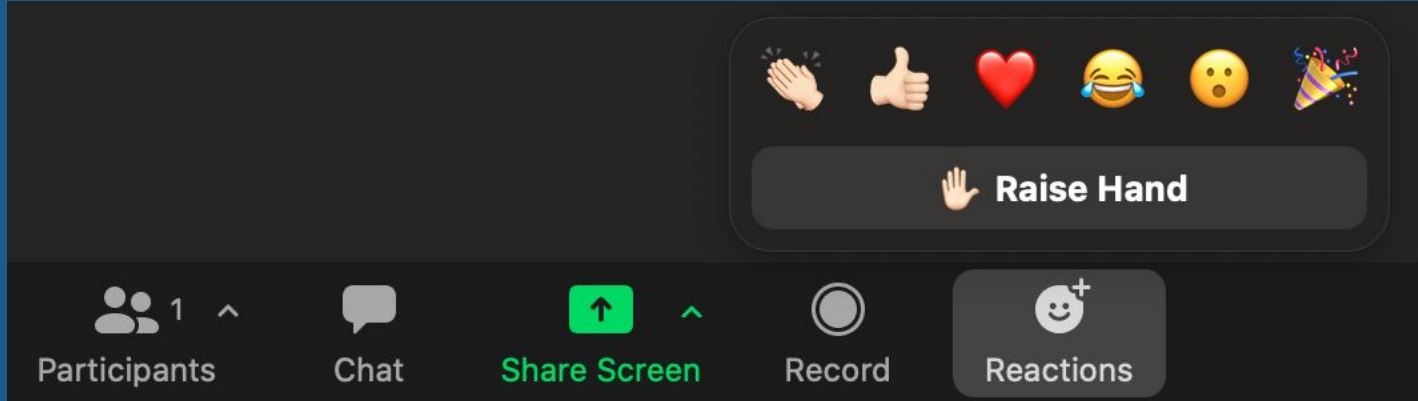
Terry Mumford and Caz Margenau
Leadership Development, Building Bridges for America

Friendly Norms

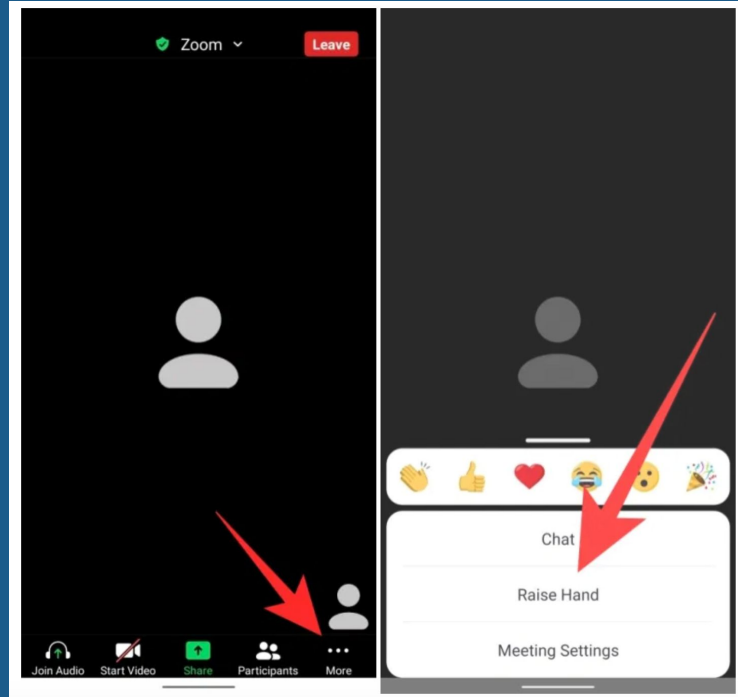
- Please keep yourself **muted** unless you are speaking
- Introduce yourself in the chat, how did you learn about this program, where are you from, any campaigns and organizations you are working with. Is this is your first BB Grassroots training?
- Post questions and info in the chat
- There will be 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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BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA



Supporting grassroots
organizers, candidates,
and causes.

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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



Terry Mumford

Partner, Law Firm – Lobbyist and Governmental
Benefits

Associate University Counsel

Dep. Director, Legislative Services Agency

Legislative Director, Governor's Office

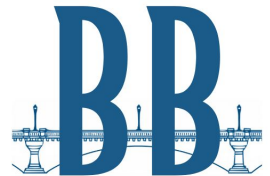
Chief Legal Counsel, House of Representatives



Let's talk Civics!

Workshop Goals – What's At Stake When We Vote? What Should We Know?

- US Constitution
- Federal Legislation
- Elections
- State and Local Government

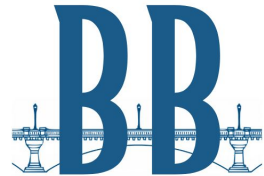


Workshop Goals – Knowledge that leads to Action!

- Our vision – safeguard democracy by an informed and engaged electorate

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

— Lily Tomlin





Why are we presenting this training on Civics?

- By knowing the system we will know where to focus our efforts
- Knowledge is power
- But we need to understand the basics first!

How can you use this information?

- Be a “super-volunteer”
- Be a trusted voice
- Be an engaged citizen

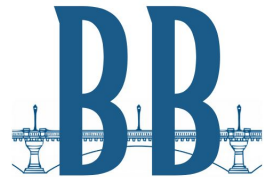


That's Unconstitutional!!



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 or implied powers & protections granted by the constitution.
- Who determines constitutionality?
 - The courts



That's Unconstitutional!!



What is in the US Constitution?

- 7 Articles–structure and operation
- 27 Amendments



The U.S. Constitution

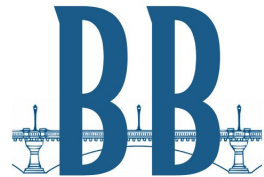
The Articles (1789)

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



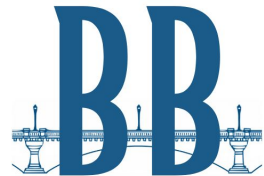
The Constitution

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



3 branches of government: A system of “checks and balances” and our vote affects each branch. Where do we want to have our impact?

Legislative Authority is checked and balanced by:

Executive branch – veto power and tie-breaker in the Senate.

Judicial branch – interpretation of laws and overturning unconstitutional acts

Executive authority is checked and balanced by:

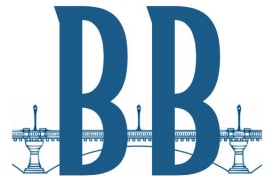
Legislative branch – oversight, approval of appointments and treaties, veto overrides, and impeachment.

Judicial branch – interpretation of actions and stopping implementation

Judicial authority is checked and balanced by:

Executive branch – the appointment of judges

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

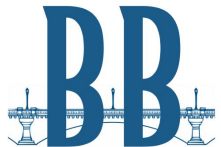


Ketanji Brown Jackson, Associate Justice

“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

- 1st Freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly; the right to petition the government.
- 2nd Right to bear arms
- 3rd Troops may not be quartered in homes in peacetime
- 4th No unreasonable searches or seizures
- 5th 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"
- 6th Right to speedy, public, impartial trial by jury with defense counsel and right to cross-examine witnesses.
- 7th Civil jury trials in federal cases
- 8th No excessive bail or fines, no cruel and unusual punishment
- 9th Unlisted rights are not necessarily denied
- 10th Powers not delegated to the United States or denied to the states are reserved to the states

More Amendments to Know

- 12th (1804) Electoral College
 - Electoral College officially elects President and Vice President
 - Each state's electors equals the number of Senators and Representatives
- 13th (1865) Abolition of slavery
- 14th (1868) Citizenship and protection of rights
 - Section 1: Citizenship Clause, Privileges and Immunities Clause, Due Process Clause, and Equal Protection Clause – Supreme Court has used the 14th Amendment to extend various amendments in the Bill of Rights to protect individuals from state action
 - Section 3: Disqualification from office for insurrection
 - Section 4: Validity of the public debt
- 15th (1870) Voting rights
- 25th (1967) Presidential inability to perform duties

Isn't there a 28th Amendment?

Equal Rights Amendment

- 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?
- Federal Archivist has not accepted the ERA
 - 2/28/2023 – US DCCCA ruled – Archivist not req'd to accept ERA and Congress could impose time limit
 - S.J. Res. 4 – Cardin + 52 cosponsors – remove deadline
 - H.J. Res. 25 – Pressley + 169 cosponsors – remove deadline
- Resource – <https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/>



14th Amendment, Section 1: A limit on state action

- All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.
- No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Importance of the 14th Amd: Marriage Equality

- **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 12th “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.

Importance of the 14th Amendment: Contraception 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 Dobbs Opinion:

The 14th Amd does not provide a right to abortion

A majority of the Supreme Court upheld the Mississippi law and overruled Roe and Casey. Alito wrote the opinion. The majority included Coney Barrett, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Thomas.

- **The Originalism History Test** – Reference to precedent, traditions and conscience have been used to broaden the meaning of the Constitution (esp 14th Amendment). 40+ years ago Conservatives began promoting a limited History Test – “Originalism” to determine how to interpret the Constitution.

The Dobbs Opinion, cont'd

The 14th Amd does not provide a right to abortion

Alito – “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.’”



Concurring Opinions

Thomas – Court should go further and look at other rights – contraception and same sex marriage.

Kavanaugh – Penalties cannot be retroactive. Travel for an abortion cannot be prohibited.

Roberts – Uphold the Mississippi law, but no need to overrule Roe & Casey



Alito's "Solution" – Our vote matters!

“Our decision returns the issue of abortion to those legislative bodies, and it 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. It is noteworthy that the percentage of women who register to vote and cast ballots is consistently higher than the percentage of men who do so. In the last election in November 2020, women, who make up around 51.5 percent of the population of Mississippi, constituted 55.5 percent of the voters who cast ballots.

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."

How to Counter “Originalism”

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

Justice Jackson: There’s more than one “origin” – we need to consider the history that surrounds the post-Civil War amendments – re: Alabama’s congressional maps in *Merrill v. Milligan*.

Our votes at the federal, state, and local level matter!

- Alito's decision opens the door for federal legislation banning abortion.
- More than 1/2 the states have taken action or are poised to ban or severely limit abortions.
- The Originalism 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 – Another Example of 14th Amd Interpretation

- **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)**: SCOTUS (5–4) – 2nd Amd 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 in 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 Amd implicitly protects the right “to use arms in defense of hearth and home.”
- **McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)** : SCOTUS (5–4) – 2nd Amd applies to state and local governments through the 14th Amd.

The Second Amendment – Another Example of 14th Amd Interpretation, *cont.*

- **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022):** SCOTUS (6–3) – New York’s proper-cause requirement for obtaining an unrestricted license to carry a concealed firearm violates the 14th Amd in that it prevents law-abiding citizens with ordinary self-defense needs from exercising their 2nd Amd right to keep and bear arms.
- NY State Legislature immediately passed the Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) – key provisions = (1) applicant for a concealed-carry license must show “good moral character,” and provide the names and contact information for family members, (2) guns are banned in “sensitive places” such as churches and parks, and on private property unless the property owner specifically agrees to allow guns.
- Federal trial court held these provisions violated SCOTUS decision, 2nd Circuit Appeals court stayed his order, and SCOTUS agreed not to intervene until 2nd Circuit issues its decision.

More to worry about – Art. 1, Sec. 4 –
The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for
Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State
by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by
Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of
choosing Senators.

Moore v. Harper

- NC Supreme Court struck down congressional map for extreme gerrymandering.
- NC state legislature appealed to SCOTUS under the Independent State Legislature (ISL) theory – the Constitution gives state legislature unfettered authority to draw maps – the power to set rules for voting and elections without state constitutional limits enforced by state courts.
- June 2023 – SCOTUS in a 6-3 decision rejected the ISL theory!

What can we do?

- Voters elect (via the Electoral College) the President
 - Nominates the Supreme Court Justices and other federal judges.
 - Can take executive action to respond to Court decisions.
- Voters elect the Senators who approve the nominations
 - Voters determine the Senate Majority that can set the rules for considering nominations.
 - Constituents express their views to their Senators.
- Voters elect US Representatives and Senators who pass legislation to respond to Court decisions.
- Voters elect state and local officials who pass legislation to respond to Court decisions.
- Donors support the organizations that litigate important issues.

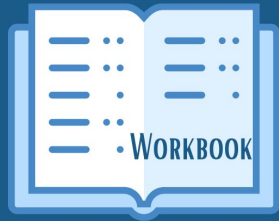
Can we “fix” SCOTUS?

- Number of 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.
 - Endorsed an advisory code of ethics.
 - Suggest changes to management of court’s “shadow” or emergency docket – where unsigned opinions block lower court orders
- For legislative changes – let’s go to the next topic!



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,

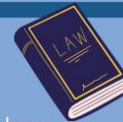
Repeat steps 2 & 3



STEP 5

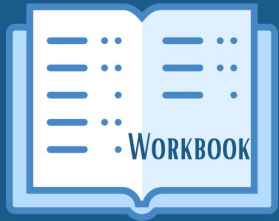
Bill is passed

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

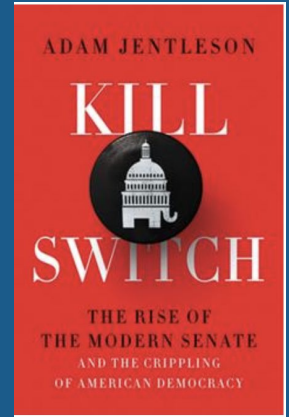
WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

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



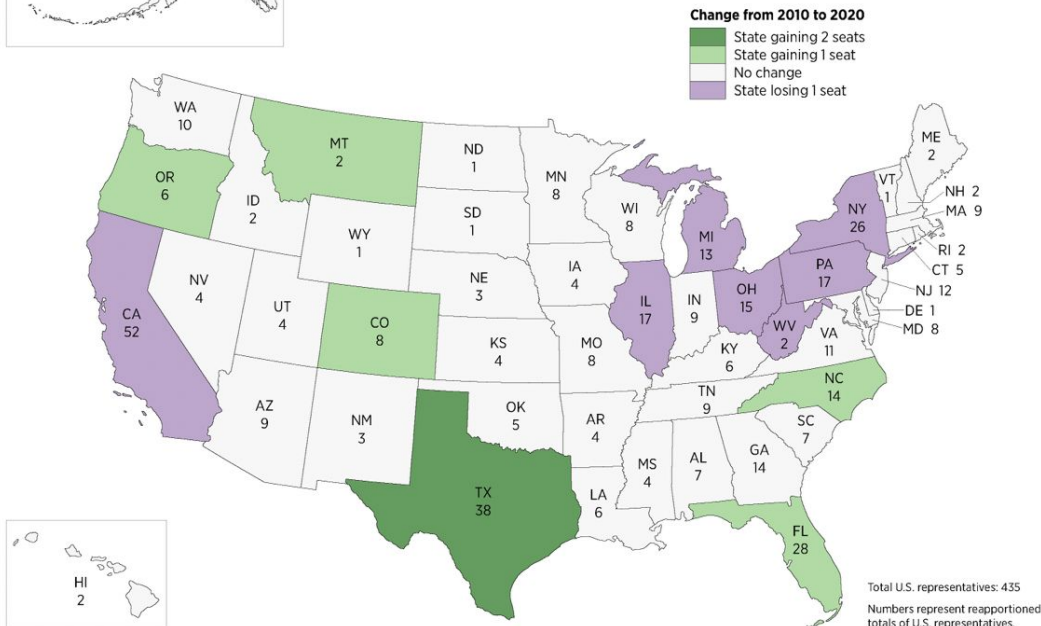
the U.S. House of Representatives



APRIL 26, 2021



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

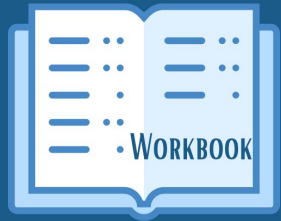


It's Not Too Early to Plan for 2024

- Every U.S. Congressperson is up for election November 5, 2024
- 33 of the U.S. Senators are up for election in 2024
- Have you checked on your Senators' and Representatives' (and/or candidates') views on issues that are important to you? As they say, "Vote Accordingly!"
- Sign up for our course in 3 weeks on "Civics for Change" to get tips on writing your elected officials

Throw the bums out! – Let's focus on
2023, then 2024





"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%.

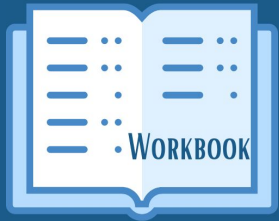
Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

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%)

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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

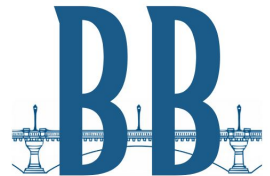
The practice of drawing political constituency maps to increase a particular candidate's or party's advantage in a subsequent election.

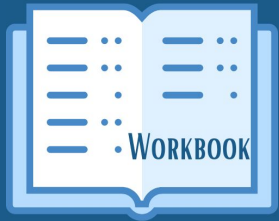
(PAC) Political Action Committee

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).



More on Gerrymandering

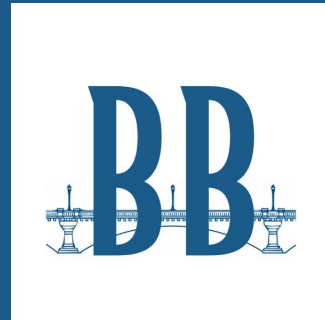
“My Vote Doesn’t Matter”

- Only “relevant” where there are “districts” – Congressional, state legislators, local bodies (county council)
- Voting still matters – avoid a “mandate”
- Statewide races are not subject to gerrymandering
- County-wide, city-wide, etc., races are not subject to gerrymandering



More on Gerrymandering – SCOTUS is Helping

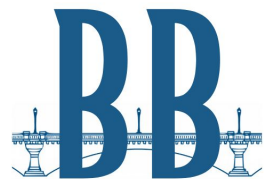
Allen v. Milligan (2023) – SCOTUS (5–4) upheld a lower court ruling that Alabama’s congressional map likely violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by diluting the votes of Black residents. VRA SEC. 2. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.





- What can we learn from *MAGA* election strategy?
- Don't just focus on federal elections, swing states/districts, during the federal election years.
- Pay attention to state elections, state houses, all states, all levels.

David Pepper, *Saving Democracy: A User's Manual For Every American*



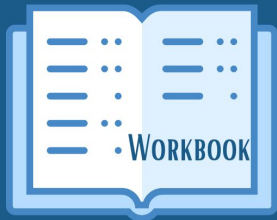


- Become an “expert” on upcoming elections in **your state**. Example: in Indiana 2023 is municipal election year
 - Who’s on the ballot?
 - Last day to register to vote?
 - Last day to request mail-in ballot?
 - First day of early voting?
 - When do polls open & close?
- How can you GOTV?



State Government: It is the same but different





"IT'S THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT"

Each State Has a Constitution

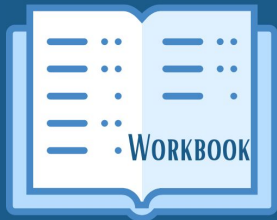
- State constitutions follow federal governmental structure
- 3 branches of government
 - Legislative
 - Executive
 - Judicial
- A state constitution may include areas not covered by the federal constitution and may offer greater protections, but a state constitution cannot conflict with the federal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

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

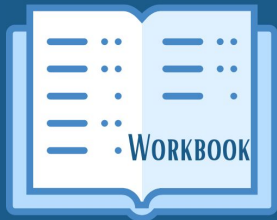
The House & Senate are each referred to as "chambers"
A bill is on the "Floor" of the chamber if it is being considered by all members.

State Government



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"IT'S THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT"

The Executive Branch

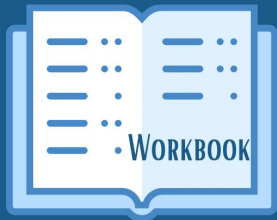
- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, and Agencies
- Indiana has a "weak Governor" system, which means that a simple majority vote of both chambers can override a veto.
- Implements legislative directives enacted by the legislature

The Judicial Branch

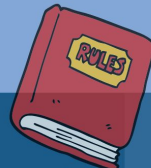
- Supreme Court - highest court in Indiana
- Court of Appeals
- Circuit Courts
- Superior Courts

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.

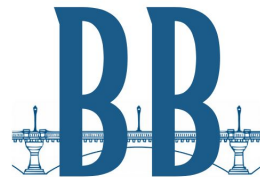
- Ownership of property
- Education of inhabitants
- Implementation of welfare and other benefits programs
- Protecting people from local threats
- Maintaining a justice system
- Setting up local governments -- counties and municipalities
- Maintaining state highways and administering local roads
- Regulation 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.
 - If this is a municipal election year, chart out that local structure.
- Who is YOUR state representative? YOUR state senator? YOUR councillor?
- What are their positions on issues that are important to you?

Your Jurisdiction

Step

1

Preparing your cheat sheet.

This sheet will help you identify the specifics about your area (jurisdiction) and will vary depending on the issue(s) you are addressing. Get started by filling in what you know and fill in the blanks later.

State

County

City, Town, Village or
Unincorporated area

School District

Special Service
District
(sewer)

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Your Policymakers

Step



You can search online and find this information.

U.S. Senator (1)		
	name, party, contact info.	
U.S. Senator (2)		
	name, party, contact info.	
U.S. Representative		
	name, party, district, contact info.	
Governor		
	name, party, contact info.	
State Senator		
	name, party, district, contact info.	
State Representative		
	name, party, district, contact info.	
Mayor		
	contact information	
County Commissioners		
	contact information	
City/Town Council		
	contact information	
School Board Member		
	contact information	



Where Can You Use this Knowledge?

- Canvassing/Phone Bank?
 - Share your knowledge as you GOTV
- Poll worker?
 - Get firsthand knowledge to share
- Network resource?
 - Help friends/family know how to vote
- Your ideas – in the chat

Our Knowledge Matters!

➤ Be a Super Volunteer! Be a Trusted Voice!

Excerpt from an email about the Indiana SOS race:

“Interestingly, out of informal interviews Women On A Mission personally conducted, just 4 out of 335 people knew that the responsibilities of Secretary of State included oversight of elections or that elections result in who controls women’s reproductive freedom.”

This is a distressing statistic – but it shows the impact you can have as you share your knowledge!

Resources

What's Happening at the Supreme Court?

- SCOTUS Blog - <https://www.scotusblog.com/>

Who and What are on the Ballot?

- League of Women Voters - <https://www.vote411.org/>

Tracking Legislation

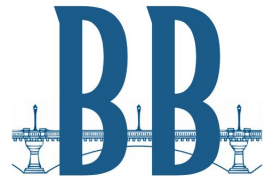
- LegiScan - <https://legiscan.com/>

In Three Weeks



Organizing for Change: Civics for Change

FREE Course and Workbook for Organizers & Activists





Learn more and register at
www.buildingbridgesforamerica.com.

Thank you for joining us.



Discussion Time



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR AMERICA LEADERSHIP TEAM

JENNY OKAMOTO

Director Leadership Development, Building Bridges
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CAZ MARGENAU

Director Leadership Development, Building Bridges
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TERRY MUMFORD

Associate, Leadership Development, Building
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Give us a follow on social media,
@buildbridges4america!

