

Key Differences between the House and the Senate

Constitutional Differences	
House	Senate
435 voting members (apportioned by population) Two Year Terms Initiates all revenue bills Initiates impeachment procedures and passes articles of impeachment	100 voting members (two from each state) Six-year terms (one-third up for re-election every two years) Offers "advice and consent" on many major presidential nominations. Tries impeachment of officials Approves treaties
Differences in Operation	
House	Senate
More centralized, more formal; stronger leadership Committee on Rules fairly powerful in controlling time and rules of debate (in conjunction with the Speaker of the House) More impersonal Power distributed less evenly Emphasizes tax and revenue policy	Less centralized, less formal; weaker leadership No rules committee; limits on debate come through unanimous consent or cloture of a filibuster More personal Power distributed more evenly Members are generalists Emphasizes foreign policy
Changes in the Institution	
House	Senate
Power centralized in the Speakers inner circle of advisors House procedures are becoming more efficient Turnover is relatively high, although those seeking reelection almost always win	Senate workload increasing and institution becoming more formal; threat of filibuster more frequent than in the past Becoming more difficult to pass legislation Turnover is moderate