

Parent Ambassadors Civics 101 & Head Start/ECEAP– Just the Basics

January 2014



CONSTITUTION



The U.S. Capitol



The White House



The Supreme Court

LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

CONGRESS

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SUPREME COURT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE



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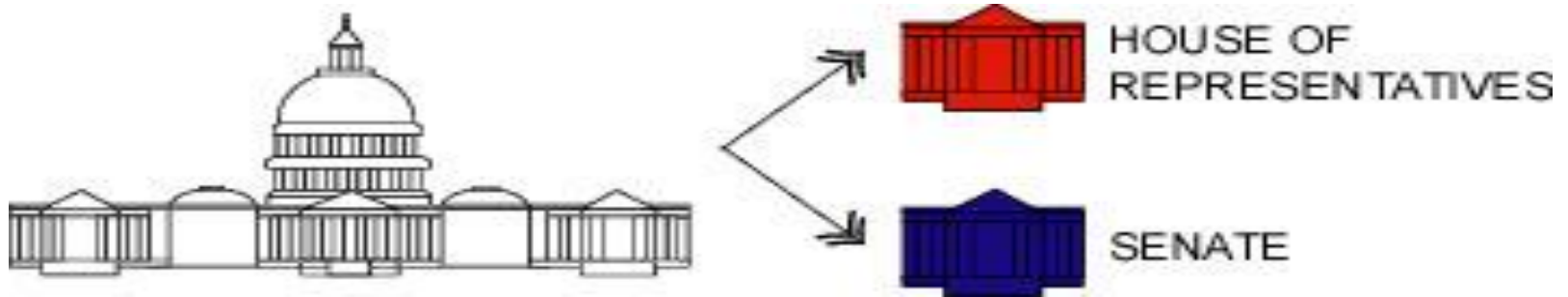
Executive Branch = President & Cabinet



- President Barack Obama
- Vice President Joe Biden
- Cabinet (Secretary of State, Secretary of Education, etc, etc)
- Federal Departments and Agencies
 - Office of Head Start (Anne Linehan, Acting Director)
 - Child Care Bureau



Legislative Branch = Congress

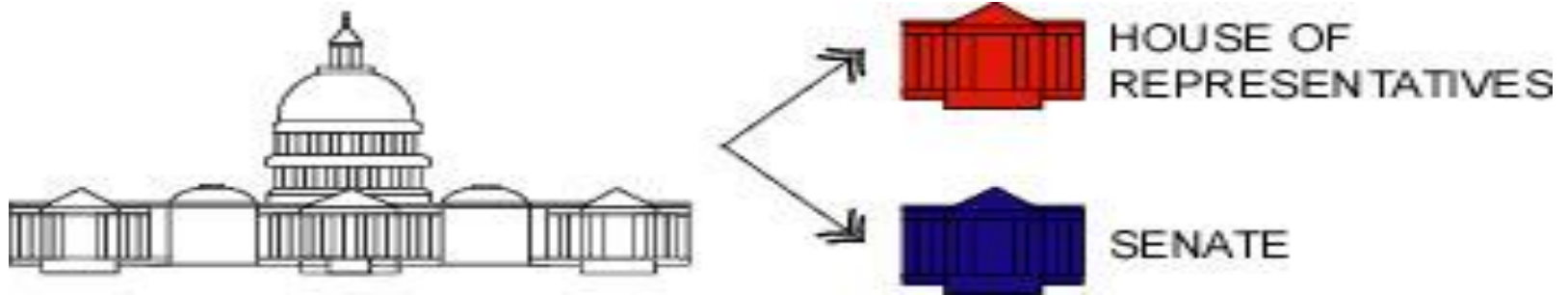


U.S. Senate:

- 100 members, 2 from each state
- Elected every 6 years
- Who are our Senators?



U.S. Congress



U.S. House of Representatives

- 435 members, based on population
- Elected every 2 years
- Washington has 10 Representatives – We added one more due to the 2010 Census
- Who are our Reps?



State Government

Our state government is very similar to the Federal structure:

- **Executive Branch – Headed by Governor Jay Inslee**
- **Legislative Branch – House and Senate**
 - Senate – 1 Senator per district (49 total).
Senate Majority Coalition Leader is Rodney Tom
 - House – 2 House members per district (98 total).
Speaker of the House is Rep. Frank Chopp
- **Judicial Branch**



Differences between State & Federal

U.S. Congress meets all year, every year

They pass a federal budget every year

WA Legislature passes a 'biennial budget' every two years.

In 2014 (even numbered years) they have a 60 day session.

In 2015 (odd numbered years) there will be a 105 day session.

Washington has a "line item veto" so the Governor can veto parts of a big bill, while the President can only veto the whole bill.

Washington has to pass a 'balanced budget'.



How a Bill becomes a Law

I'm Just a Bill - Schoolhouse Rock



How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 1: INTRODUCTION OF A BILL

- **The bill can come from a variety of sources:**
 - Individual citizens,
 - Special interest groups
 - Corporations,
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- **Only a member of Congress (federal) or the Legislature (state) can introduce the bill**
- **A bill can start in either House or Senate.**



How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 2: The Bill is Assigned to Committee

- Each House has standing committees that consider their bills.
- Each committee has a chair (from the Majority) and a ranking member (from the minority).
- They “mark-up” (edit) the bill so it will pass on the floor (full House or Senate).
- They can also kill the bill in committee by voting it down or by not passing it.
- The bill must also pass through the Rules Committee on its way to the floor.



How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 3: The Bill is Debated and Voted on in the full House or Senate

- If the bill is passed by the committee/s, it is sent to the whole House for debate and vote.
- Votes are done electronically in the House, by voice in the Senate. This is a “roll call vote”.
- Members can vote “Yea”, “Nay” or “Abstain”.



How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 4: The Bill passes, and goes to the other House

- The same process follows:
 - The bill must be referred to the appropriate committee.
 - Committees hold hearings and make changes to the bill.
 - The committee can ‘report’ the bill to the floor.
 - The full house or senate debates the new version and votes on the bill



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How a Bill becomes a Law

BOTH HOUSES MUST PASS THE BILL!

- A simple majority in both houses is needed to pass the bill (51%).
- In the U.S. House: 218 needed to control the House. (50 in the state legislature)
- In the US Senate: 51 senators needed to pass the bill (25 in the state Senate)



How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 5: Differences between House and Senate must be *reconciled* and made into one bill

- **The bill is considered by a *conference committee*, made up of both House and Senate members.**
- **They negotiate and compromise and send the combined bill back to both houses.**
- **A vote on the “conference report” must be taken and passed by both Houses.**



How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 6: The Bill is Sent to the President or Governor

- The president can sign the bill if he wants it to become law.
- He can include “signing statements” that say how the law should be enforced or if parts will not be enforced.
- The president can veto or reject the bill. He must include his reasons and recommendations for correction.
- The president can choose not to act on the bill. If Congress is in session, the bill becomes law after 10 days.
- If Congress is not in session, the bill dies after 10 days. This is called a “pocket veto.”



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How a Bill becomes a Law

Step 7: The Bill becomes Law

- If the president or governor vetoes the bill, both Houses can reconsider the bill.
- Two-thirds (67%) of both Houses are needed to *override* the veto.
- In the U.S. House: 369 needed for override. Senate: 67.
- If president signs the bill, it is a federal law that each state must follow.
- In WA, there is rarely an override attempt because of the part-time legislature.



Political Parties

In the USA we have two major political parties:

Republican – the more “conservative” party, also known as the “GOP”. In general, their platform includes:

- Support of “free market” solutions and a philosophy of personal responsibility over welfare programs
- Opposition to taxes
- Support of defense spending, and opposition to most spending for social programs
- Conservative social positions (anti-abortion, anti-gay marriage, pro-school prayer, anti-union, pro-school vouchers, etc)



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Political Parties

Democratic – the more “liberal” party. In general, their platform includes:

- **Support of government regulation of business and industry**
- **Support for a social “safety net” for families in need**
- **Support for protections against discrimination**
- **Support for a more progressive tax structure**
- **“Liberal” social positions (pro-choice, pro-gay marriage, anti-school vouchers, etc)**



Which Party Has More Power?

In Washington State – the Democrats - mostly.

- Governor Jay Inslee is a Democrat
- House of Representatives has a majority of Democrats
- Senate has a majority of Democrats
- BUT – The Senate is being run differently– 2 Dems are joining with the Republicans, so control in the Senate is with the GOP.

Those in control choose all committee chairs, control what bills get voted on, and write the budget.

This does NOT mean they win all the time!



Which Party Has More Power?

In Washington DC – power is divided.

- **President Obama is a Democrat**
- **As of January 2011, the House of Representatives has a majority of Republicans. Speaker: John Boehner**
- **Senate has a majority of Democrats**

This means Democrats chair all Senate committees and control the agenda, while Republicans chair all House committees and control that agenda.

It's important that we talk to both parties!



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What Next?

- **What does this mean for ECEAP?**
- **What does this mean for Head Start?**
- **What do Republicans and Democrats say about Early Learning?**
- **How can we influence their decisions?**



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Head Start, ECEAP, Early Head Start

Who Are We?



Head Start/ECEAP/EHS – What’s the Same?

- “Comprehensive Approach” – serving the whole child and whole family
- Individualized Education Plans for children
- Family Involvement
- Policy Council – parent governance
- Serving the same population – at risk children



Who Provides Head Start/ECEAP/EHS Services?

- **School Districts**
- **Private Non-Profits**
- **Educational Service Districts**
- **Community Action Agencies**
- **Community Colleges**
- **Municipalities/Counties**



What do programs look like?

All are different!

- Center based vs. Home-based
- Combination programs (center + home)
- Part day or Full day (full day requires parents to have Working Connections)
- Teacher/advocate model, separate family support model, and others
- Varying hours/day, days/week
- Some tiny – less than 30 children, some huge, more than 4000



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What's the Difference?

Head Start

ECEAP

- **Federal Program**

- Monitored by Office of Head Start
- \$\$ approved by Congress in Washington DC

- **448 hrs/year minimum**

- **\$9000/year/child avg**

- **“Shared Governance”**

- **State Program**

- Monitored by Department of Early Learning
- \$\$ approved by Legislature in Olympia

- **320 hrs/year minimum**

- **\$7100/year average**

- **Parent Council**



What other Programs do we Advocate for?

- **Early Head Start**
 - For pregnant women and children 0-3
 - Most EHS programs in Washington are ‘home based’
- **Migrant/Seasonal Head Start**
 - For migrant/seasonal working families
 - Serves children 0-5, all day during the season
- **American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start**
 - Head Start & EHS on tribal reservations
- **Other programs important to our families – Working Connections, Medicaid, Home visiting, etc**



Question

**Why should ECEAP parents
advocate for Head Start/EHS, and
vice versa?**

How can we do this effectively?

