

Basic Government Processes 101

National Down Syndrome Congress Convention
Speaker Spotlight



**CYRUS HUNCHAREK &
CHAPMAN BRYANT**

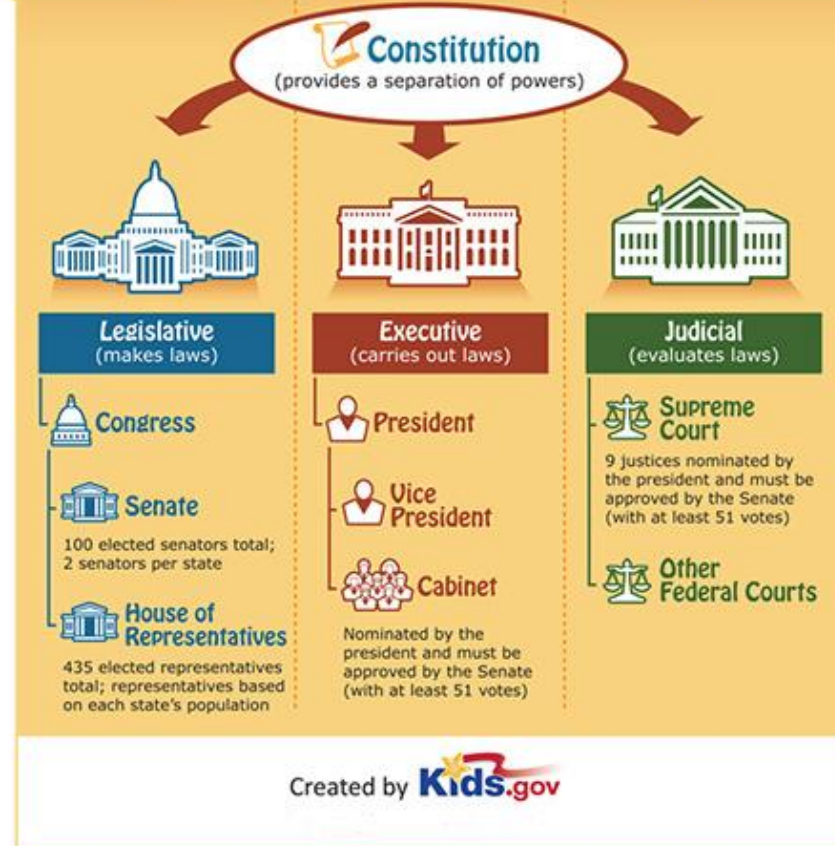


[Government 101 Video](#)



**NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS**

3 BRANCHES of GOVERNMENT



- Legislative
- Executive
- Judicial

The U.S. Congress

- Bicameral – 2 chambers
- Senate
 - 100 members
 - 2 per state
 - 6-year term
- House
 - 435
 - 2-year term
 - Tied to population of state



Powers of Congress

- **Passing legislation:** Congress has the power to pass laws on a variety of subjects, including taxation, national defense, and civil rights.
- **Overseeing the executive branch:** Congress can investigate and oversee the activities of the executive branch, including the President and federal agencies.
- **Controlling the budget:** Congress controls the federal budget and must approve any spending by the government. This includes setting tax rates, creating spending bills, and appropriating funds for specific programs and projects.
- **Declaring war:** Congress has the power to declare war, although this power has been largely delegated to the President in recent years.
- **Regulating commerce:** Congress can regulate interstate commerce, including trade between states and with foreign countries. This includes setting standards for products, services, and industries that operate across state lines.



Executive Branch

- Led by the President
- Accepts or Rejects Legislation
- Carries Out Laws
- Oversees Departments
 - (Education, Labor, Energy, Defense etc.)



Judicial Branch

- Federal Courts decide disputes involving the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, and disputes between states
- District Courts, Courts of Appeals, and the Supreme Court
- Federal judges appointed for life

