

STRUCTURE OF CONGRESS

Study Questions

1. Which party controlled the Senate before the elections? How many seats did each party have?
2. How many seats does each party currently have in the Senate?
3. How did the elections change the balance of power in the Senate? Which party now selects the Senate Majority Leader and all the Senate committee chairs?
4. Which party controlled the House before the elections? How many seats did this party have? How many seats are needed to control the House?
5. Which party has a majority in the House after the elections? Did they gain or lose seats in this election?
6. What is the significance of one party controlling both houses of Congress and the White House?

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Fill in the Blank Activity: Fill in the blanks below.

Section A--Provide the names, party affiliation, and state for each member in the Congress. Identify the role of each leadership position listed.

*Speaker of the House - _____

Role:

*House Majority Leader - _____

Role:

*House Majority Whip - _____

Role:

*House Minority Leader - _____

Role:

House Minority Whip - _____

Role:

Senate Majority Leader - _____

Role:

Senate Majority Whip - _____

Role:

Senate Minority Leader - _____

Role:

Senate Minority Whip - _____

Role:

Section B--Congressional Committees and Other Policy-Making Groups-Define and explain the significance of each of the following congressional policy-making groups.

Standing committees -

Joint committees -

Conference committees -

Select committees -

Caucuses -

Political parties -