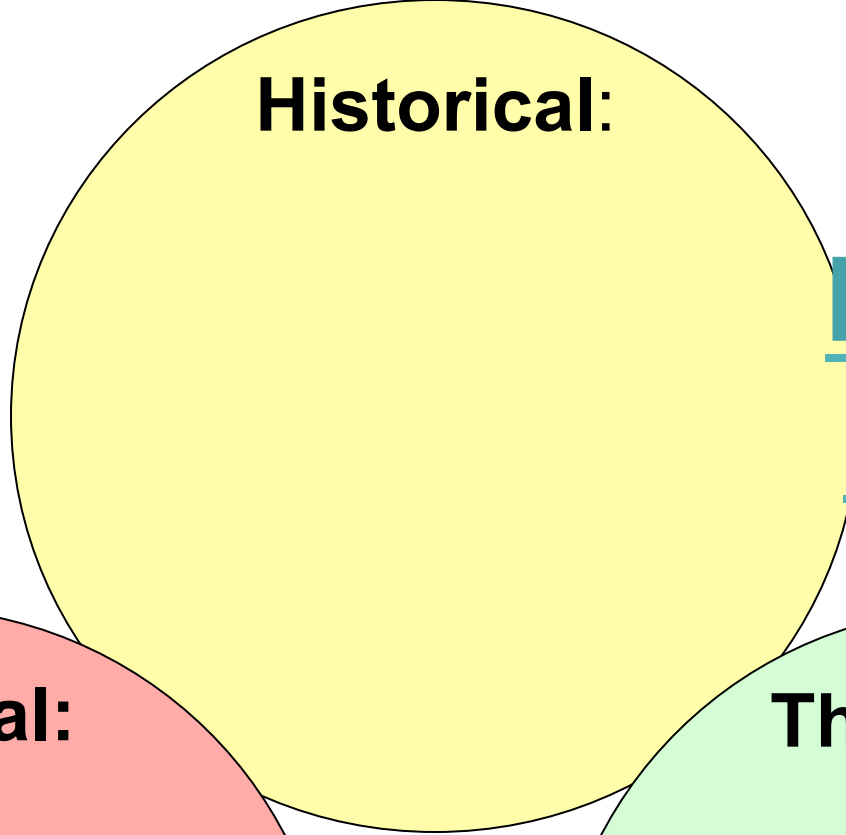
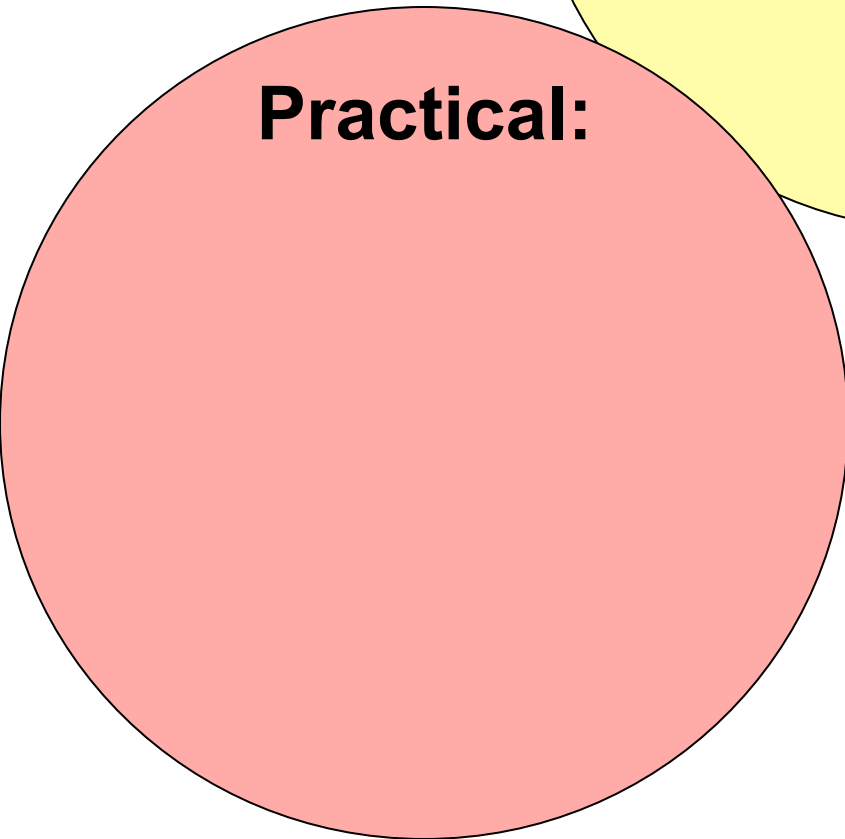


Topic 4
Reasons
For a

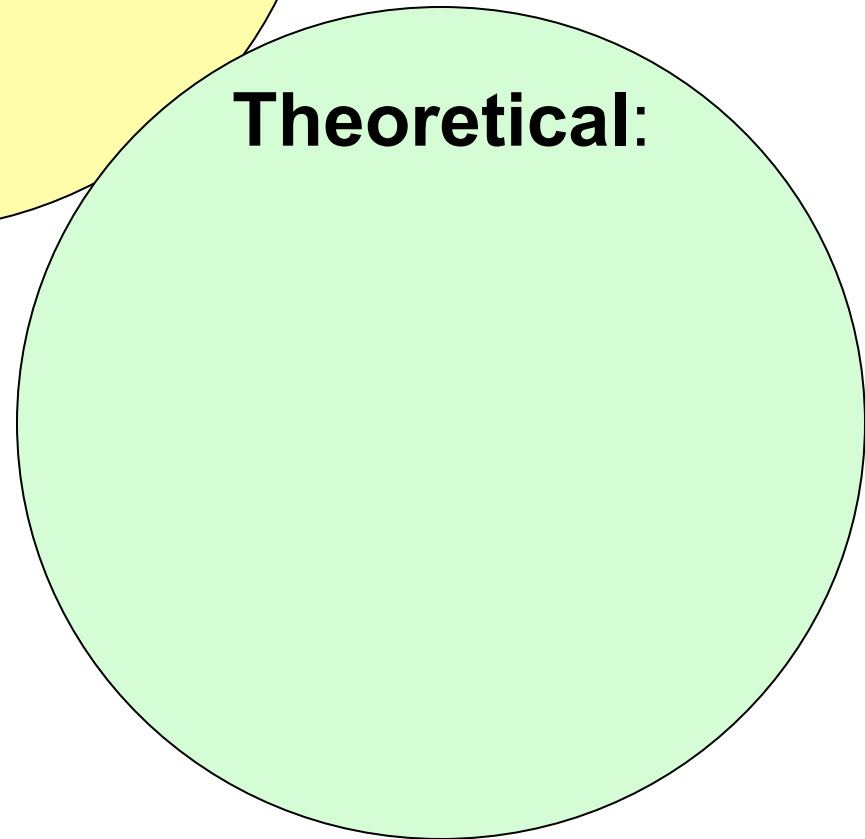


Historical:

**National
Legislature**
Bicameral
Congress



Practical:



Theoretical:

Reasons For a

Bicameral Congress

Historical:

- The British Parliament has consisted of two houses since the 1300s, and many colonial assemblies were similar in form.

Practical:

Theoretical:

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Historical:

- The British Parliament has consisted of two houses since the 1300s, and many colonial assemblies were similar in form.

Practical:

A bicameral legislature was necessary to compromise the Virginia and New Jersey plans of representation.

Theoretical:

Reasons For a

Bicameral Congress

Historical:

- The British Parliament has consisted of two houses since the 1300s, and many colonial assemblies were similar in form.

Practical:

A bicameral legislature was necessary to compromise the Virginia and New Jersey plans of representation.

Theoretical:

The Framers favored a bicameral Congress in order that one house might act as a check on the other.







Terms and Sessions of Congress

- Each **term** of Congress lasts two years. The 111th Congress began 1/3/09 and will end 1/3/11.
- A **session** is the period of time during which Congress assembles conducts business; two session each term, one session each year.

Sessions of Congress

- Congress **adjourns**, or suspends until the next session, each regular session as it sees fit.
- Only the President may call Congress into a **special session** — a meeting to deal with some emergency situation.

Comparative Government: Legislative Bodies

Country	Legislative Body	Houses if Bicameral	Number of Members	How Elected	Term of Office
 United States	Congress	House of Representatives	435	Direct popular vote	2 years
		Senate	100	Direct popular vote	6 years
 Costa Rica	Legislative Assembly		57	Direct popular vote	4 years
 France	Parlement	National Assembly	577	Direct popular vote	5 years
		Senate	321	Local electoral colleges	9 years
 Israel	Knesset		120	Direct popular vote	4 years
 Japan	Diet	House of Councillors	252	Direct popular vote	6 years
		House of Representatives	500	Direct popular vote	4 years
 Saudi Arabia	Consultative Council		90	Appointed by the king	4 years

Assessment

- 1. The practical reason behind establishing a bicameral legislature was**
 - (a) the necessity to find compromise between the New Jersey and Virginia plans.**
 - (b) the need to mimic existing British institutions.**
 - (c) a desire to break from all tradition.**
 - (d) requirements set by the British monarchy.**

Assessment

1. The practical reason behind establishing a bicameral legislature was

(a) the necessity to find compromise between the New Jersey and Virginia plans.

(b) the need to mimic existing British institutions.

(c) a desire to break from all tradition.

(d) requirements set by the British monarchy.

Assessment

2. Special sessions of Congress

(a) are called by the President to deal with some emergency situation.

(b) are called whenever a senator filibusters.

(c) are never called.

(d) are used to handle the everyday business of Congress.

Assessment

2. Special sessions of Congress

(a) are called by the President to deal with some emergency situation.

(b) are called whenever a senator filibusters.

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Congressional Comparison Chart

The House

The Senate

1. Term length

a. Limits?

b. When Elected?

2. Number of Members?

3. Who is their Constituency?

4. Formal Qualifications?

a.

b.

c.

Chap 10.2 House of Representatives

Size and Terms

- The Constitution provides that the total number of seats in the House shall be **apportioned** (distributed) among the States on the basis of their respective **populations**.

Reapportionment

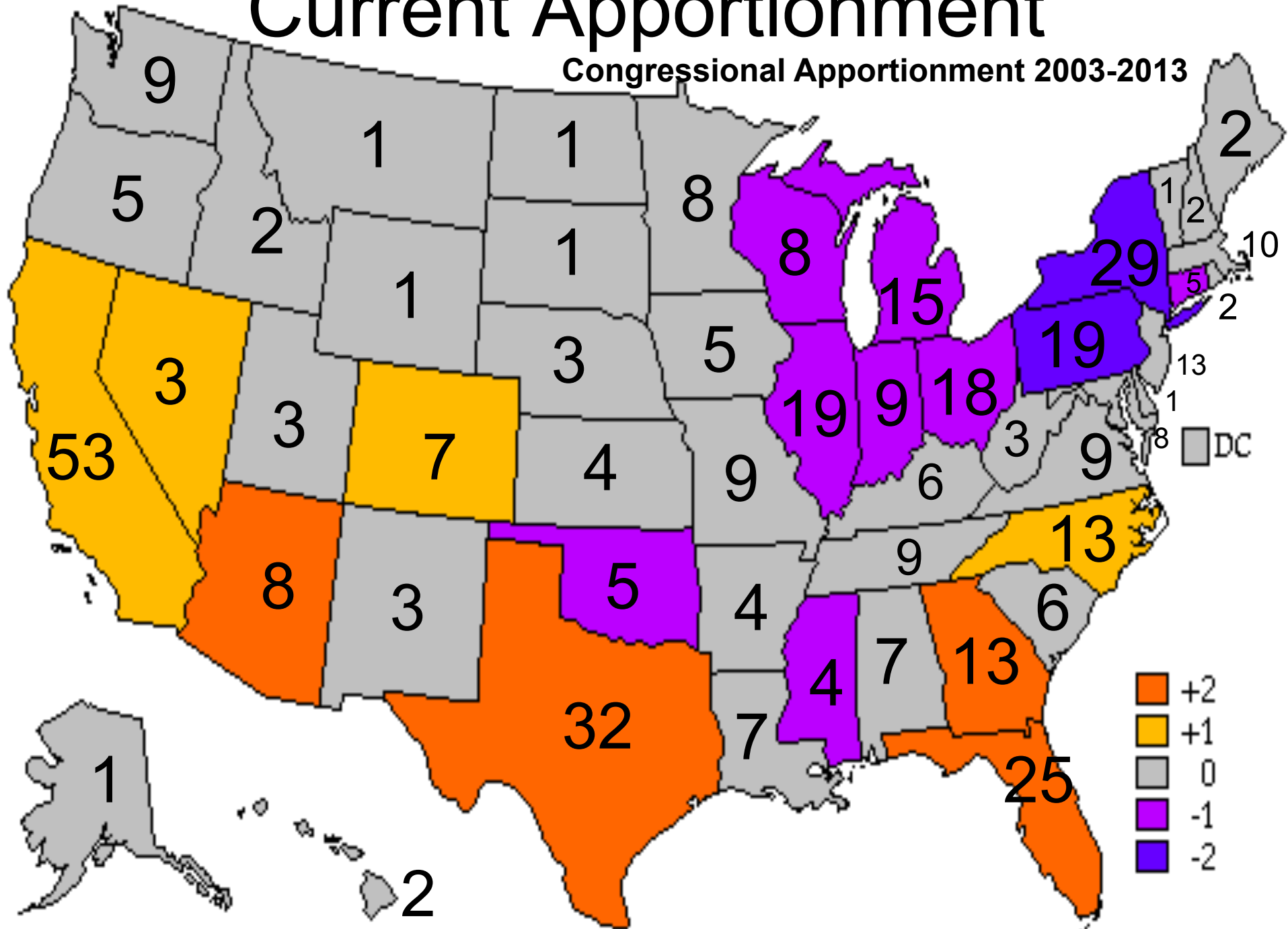
- The Reapportionment Act of 1929 set the **“permanent”** size of the House, and provided for **“automatic reapportionment.”**

Reapportionment

- Article I of the Constitution directs Congress to **reapportion** — **redistribute** — the seats in the House after each decennial census.
- As the United States grew in **population**, the number of **representatives** in the House also grew.

Current Apportionment

Congressional Apportionment 2003-2013

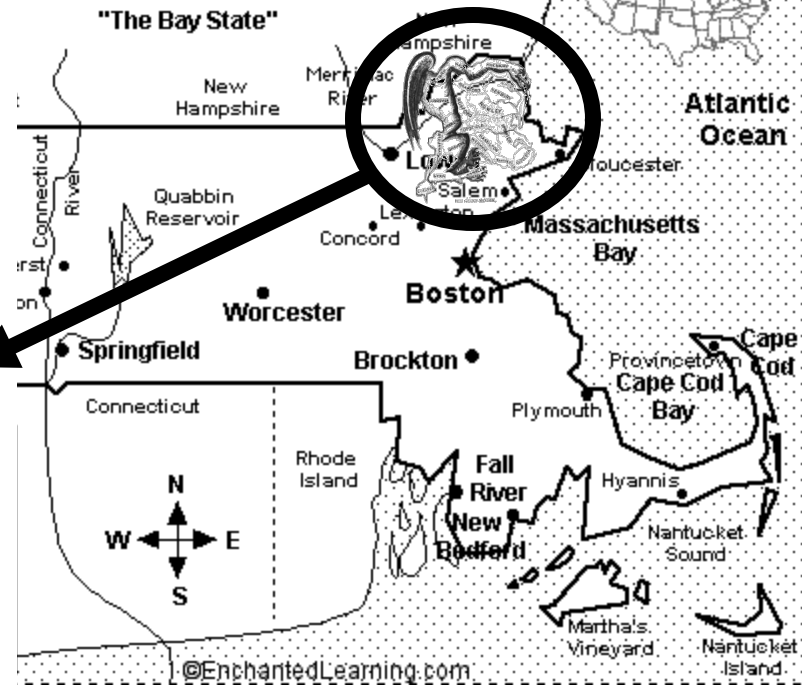


Districts and Gerrymandering

- Under the **single-member district** arrangement, the voters in **each district** elect **one** of the State's representatives.

Massachusetts

"The Bay State"

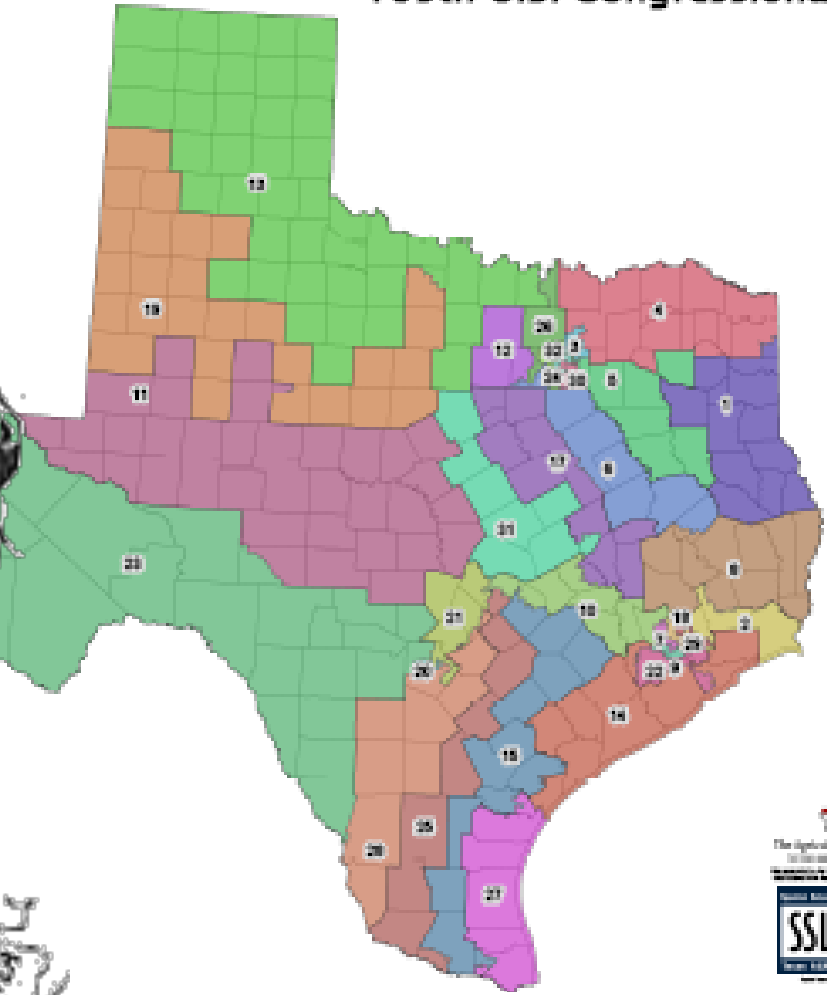


Gerrymandering

is the act of drawing congressional districts to the advantage of the political party that controls the State legislature.

Districts and Gerrymandering

- **Gerrymandering may produce districts that have **unusual** shapes or even defy description.**
- **Read page 271**



Gerrymandering

In Texas?

Informal Qualifications for House Members

The realities of politics require some informal qualifications, such as **party identification**, **name familiarity**, **gender**, **ethnic characteristics**, and **political experience**. **Education** ~ 399 of 435 Representatives have at least a bachelors degree.

Chap 10.3 United States Senate

- **The Constitution says that the Senate “shall be composed of two Senators from each State.”**
- **Originally, the Constitution provided that senators were chosen by the State legislatures.**
- **In 1912, the 17th Amendment was passed and called for the popular election of senators.**

Assessment

1. **Members of the House of Representatives are elected for**
 - (a) two-year terms.**
 - (b) six-year terms.**
 - (c) four-year terms.**
 - (d) five-year terms.**

Assessment

1. Members of the House of Representatives are elected for
(a) two-year terms.
(b) six-year terms.
(c) four-year terms.
(d) five-year terms.

Assessment

- 2. The Constitution requires a member of Congress to be**
- (a) an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected.**
 - (b) a property-owning male.**
 - (c) a natural-born citizen.**
 - (d) at least 40 years of age.**

Assessment

2. The Constitution requires a member of Congress to be

(a) an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected.

(b) a property-owning male.

(c) a natural-born citizen.

(d) at least 40 years of age.

Assessment

- 1. Senators are elected for**
 - (a) two-year terms.**
 - (b) eight-year terms.**
 - (c) four-year terms.**
 - (d) six-year terms.**

Assessment

1. **Senators are elected for**
 - (a) two-year terms.**
 - (b) eight-year terms.**
 - (c) four-year terms.**
 - (d) six-year terms.**

Assessment

2. The Senate is a continuous body, meaning that

(a) Senators must continually reside in Washington, D.C.

(b) all of its seats are always up for election every six years.

(c) it never adjourns.

(d) not all of its seats are ever up for election at one time.

Assessment

2. The Senate is a continuous body, meaning that

(a) Senators must continually reside in Washington, D.C.

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