

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



Our federal government has three parts. They are the **Executive**, (President and about 5,000,000 workers) **Legislative** (Senate and House of Representatives) and **Judicial** (Supreme Court and lower Courts).

The **President of the United States** administers the **Executive** Branch of our government. He enforces the laws that the **Legislative** Branch (Congress) makes. The President is elected by United States citizens, 18 years of age and older, who vote in the presidential elections in their states. These votes are tallied by states and form the Electoral College system. States have the number of electoral votes which equal the number of senators and representatives they have. It is possible to have the most popular votes throughout the nation and NOT win the electoral vote of the Electoral College.

The **Legislative** part of our government is called Congress. Congress makes our laws. Congress is divided into 2 parts. One part is called the Senate. There are 100 **Senators**--2 from each of our states. Another part is called the House of Representatives. Representatives meet together to discuss ideas and decide if these ideas (bills) should become laws. There are **435 Representatives**. The number of representatives each state gets is determined by its population. Some states have just 2 representatives. Others have as many as 40. Both senators and representatives are elected by the eligible voters in their states.

The **Judicial** part of our federal government includes the **Supreme Court** and **9 Justices**. They are special judges who interpret laws according to the Constitution. These justices only hear cases that pertain to issues related to the Constitution. They are the highest court in our country. The federal judicial system also has lower courts located in each state to hear cases involving federal issues.

All three parts of our federal government have their main headquarters in the city of Washington D.C.