

Check for understanding

Version One

Original source

ARTICLE I

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Check for understanding

Modified Source

ARTICLE I

SECTION 2. Members of the House of Representatives are elected every two years. The people who are registered to vote are the same people who get to vote for members of the biggest house of the state legislature.

To get elected to the House, you must be twenty-five years old, be a citizen of the United States for at least seven years, and live in the same state that elects you.

(Representatives and taxes were originally based on population; [enslaved people] and Indians did not count as full people. Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment changed how people are counted.)

Representatives in Congress, as well as taxes (this part about taxes was changed by the Sixteenth Amendment), are spread out over the country and are based on the number of people living in the places they represent.

People in the country are counted every ten years in a census, so we know how many people live in the United States. The people are represented in the House of Representatives and helps the government determine taxes. A certain number of people (originally thirty thousand, now over five-hundred thousand) have their own representative.

For the first Congress, with no census, the division of representatives in the House was: New Hampshire: three; Massachusetts, eight; Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, one; Connecticut, five; New York, six; New Jersey, four; Pennsylvania, eight; Delaware, one; Maryland, six; Virginia, ten; North Carolina, five; South Carolina, five; and Georgia, three.

If a representative leaves office or dies, the governor of that state sets up another election and a new representative is elected.

Representatives pick a Speaker and other officers to run the House of Representatives. Only the House of Representatives can vote to start the process for kicking somebody out of office (impeaching them).