

## **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

The United States House of Representatives has 435 members elected to serve two-year terms. The number of Representatives allocated to each state is determined by the state's population, as reported in the decennial census. Federal law requires the reshaping of congressional/legislative districts within each state following the census to reflect the changes in population and ensure that the "one-person, one-vote" mandate is obeyed. Since the 1879 State Constitution, the Legislature has been charged with the responsibility of reapportioning legislative, congressional and board of equalization districts. The elections and reapportionment committees of each house use the census tract maps supplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and precinct information supplied by the counties to realign the districts.

## **THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE**

The California State Legislature consists of two houses:

The State Senate: the "upper" house is comprised of 40 Senators, each elected to four-year terms. As with the U.S. Senate, the terms of the Senators are staggered so that half the membership is elected every two years. The Senators representing the odd-numbered districts are elected in years evenly divisible by four; i.e., presidential election years. The Senators from the even-numbered districts are elected in the intervening even-numbered years, in the gubernatorial election cycle.

The State Assembly: the "lower" house is comprised of 80 members, who are elected to two-year terms and so are on the ballot at every regularly scheduled statewide election.

Both State Senators and Members of the Assembly are subject to term limits: two four-year terms for Senators, three two-year terms for Assembly members.