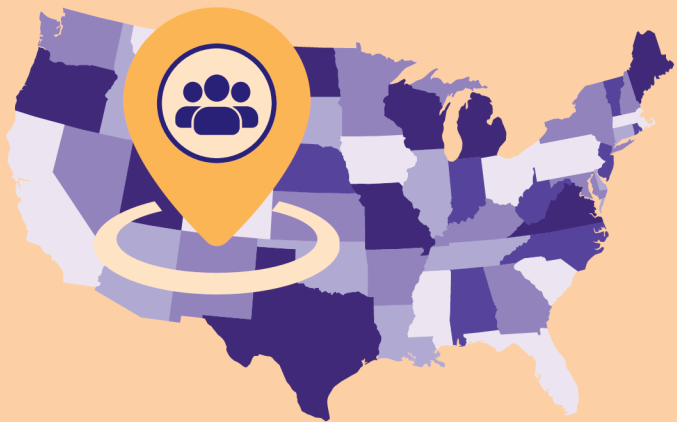


HOW MANY REPRESENTATIVES DOES EACH STATE GET



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How Many Representatives Does Each State Get?



Senators

In the US Senate, every state is equally represented. Each state has 2 Senators, no matter how small or large the population is. Senators serve 6-year terms. The Constitution sets the criteria for being a Senator: must be at least 30 years old, have been a US citizen for at least 9 years, and live in the state they represent at the time of election.

House of Representatives

Representation in the U.S House of Representatives is based on population. This means that states with more people get more representatives. The Constitution ensures that each state has a minimum of one member in the U.S. House of Representatives. There are 435 voting members in the House, and these seats are divided among the 50 states based on how many people live in each state. There are also six nonvoting members in the United States House of Representatives.

Every 10 years, the United States counts its population in a process called the Census. After the Census, the 435 seats are divided again using a set formula. States with larger populations may gain seats, while states with smaller populations may have fewer.

Discussion Question: What are your thoughts on using the population as a formula in deciding representation?

Sources: www.visitthecapitol.gov/education-resource/us-senate
www.census.gov

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