HOW FEDERAL LAWS ARE MADE

01 BILL IS PROPOSED

New law or change to an existing law can come from:

- A sitting member of Congress (House or Senate)
- A congressional candidate's campaign
- A petition by the people through their elected official(s)

02 COMMITTEE REVIEW

The proposed bill is assigned to a committee to discuss, research, and review. The committee can make changes to the proposal.

03 VOTE TAKEN

The draft bill is brought to a vote in the Chamber from which it was proposed (House or Senate)

04 NEXT CHAMBER

If the bill passes the vote in the first Chamber, it is passed to the other Chamber for a similar process of review and vote. The bill might be revised during this review.

05 RECONCILIATION

If both Chambers vote to accept their versions of the bill, they must then work together to resolve any differences between the two versions. Next, both Chambers vote on the same version of the bill. If the bill passes, it is presented to the president.

06 PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW

The president reviews the proposed bill

1) If the president signs the bill, it becomes law.
2) The president can also choose to veto, or reject, the bill.

07 OVERRIDE

If the president vetoes a bill, Congress can attempt to override the veto. To do this, Congress will take a vote. If two-thirds of the members vote in favor of the bill, it becomes law.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

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