Every law starts out as an idea someone has. From citizens to groups, all laws originate from an idea. The idea catches the attention of either a Representative or a Senator.

The Congressman or Senator then researches the ideas and then writes the ideas into a bill.

Once the proposed bill is written, it is introduced. In the House, a proposed bill is placed in the hopper.

Once the clerk for the house receives the proposed bill, it is assigned a number.

Bills that begin in the House begin with “H.R.” while bills from the Senate begin with “S.”
Once the bill is introduced, a copy is distributed and the bill is assigned to a committee.

Gotta get this to committee!

Committees specialize in different types of topics ranging from budget to national defense.

Committee members review, research, and revise the bill depending on the needs.

If the committee wants more research on a bill, they can send it to a subcommittee to gather opinions from experts.

The committee then votes on whether or not the bill goes to the floor.

The bill is then debated on the Floor where opinions for and against are presented.
After the debate, then a vote is taken.

If the bill passes, by a simple majority, then it is sent on to the other house of Congress.

If the bill receives a majority vote, it goes to the president for approval.

The process repeats in the other house...

The bill is voted on again...

GOOD LUCK!

To: The Senate
From: The House

To: The House
From: The Senate

It’s a Yes for me!
The President has three choices...

Decision 1: Sign It

PASS ALL THE LAWS

Decision 2: Veto It

Veto All The Laws

Decision 3: Pocket It - The President does nothing and after 10 days if...

Congress is in session

Congress is not in session

If a President vetoes a law...

To be a law now, I need a 2/3 majority in both houses to override a presidential veto.

Since 2000, an average of only three percent of all bills became law...

Since 1789, the Presidential Veto has been used 1,489 times while the pocket veto has been used 1,066 times.

F.D.R. exercised the veto 372 times! (Then again, he was President for 12 years)

Grover Cleveland is in 2nd Place with 304 Votes.

To date, Congress has overturned 110 vetoes.