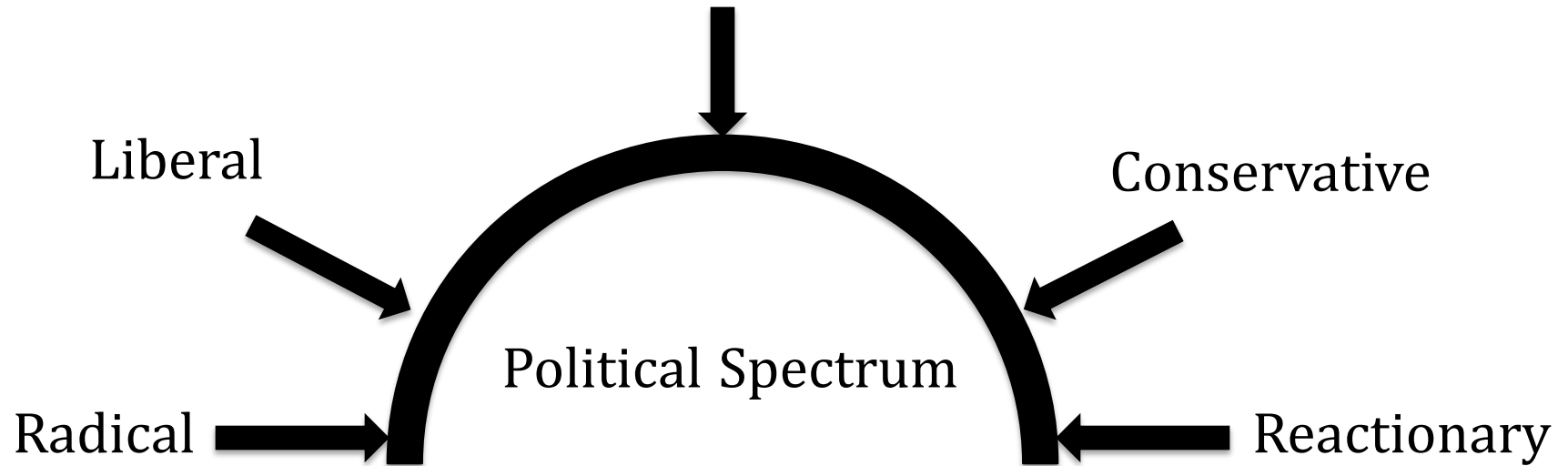


THE
LEGISLATURE:
KNOW THE LAWS

The Political Spectrum categorizes political

thought:
Moderate



2 factors that determine placement:

The amount of change within society or government	The amount of government that is called for
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There are 2 main **Political Parties** in the U.S. today:



Democrats (left) want more government involvement because they feel the government should be actively involved in the welfare of its citizens.



Republicans (right) want less government involvement because they feel the government should not interfere in the lives of its citizens if it is not necessary.

The 1st Amendment allows for **Third Parties**:

Gary Johnson



Libertarian Party

2016
Presidential
Candidates

Jill Stein



Green Party

They face **obstacles** to seriously compete in elections:

Institutional Barriers

Candidates have to work within:

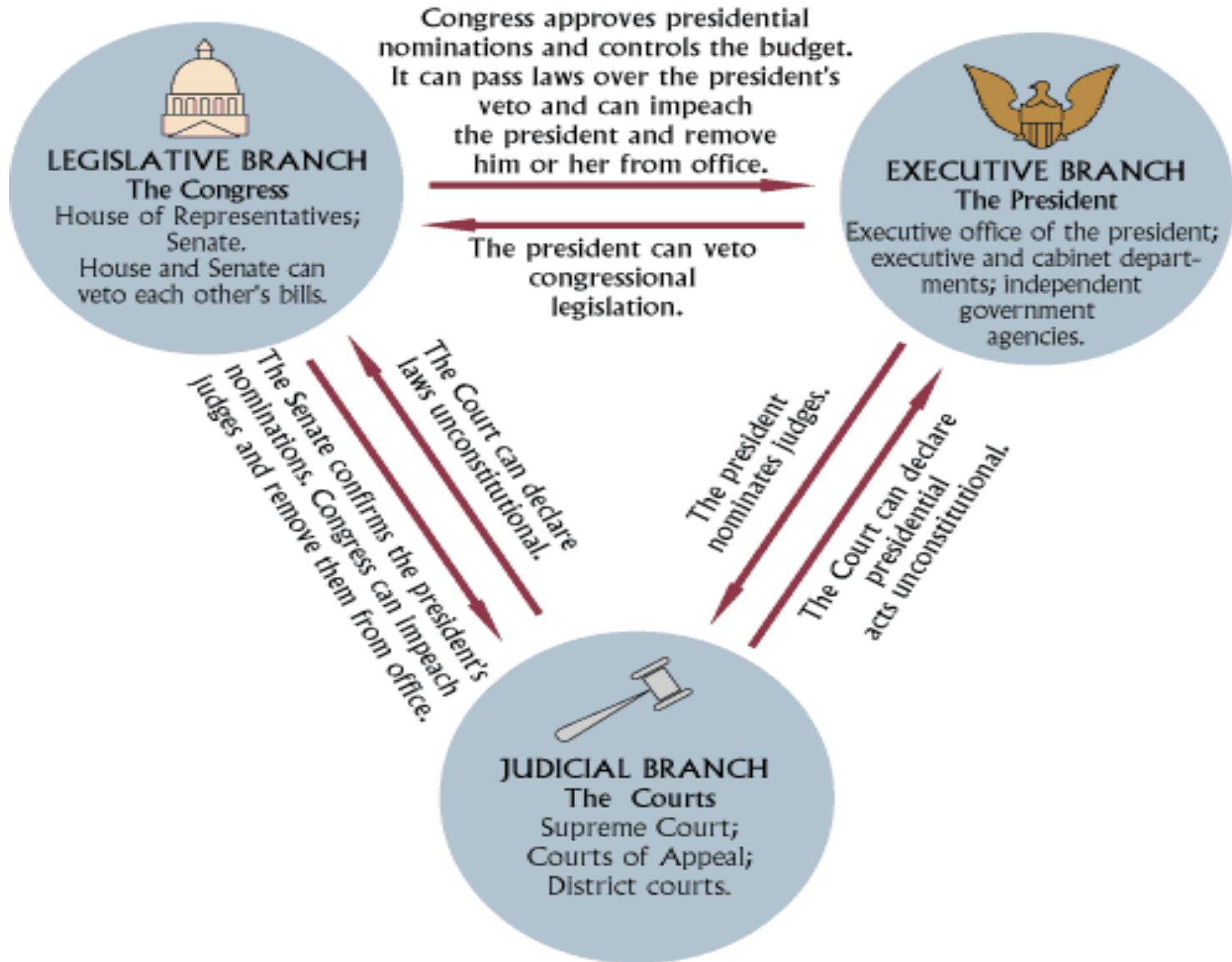
- Winner-take-all system of the Electoral College.
- Ballot access laws that make it difficult to be listed on the ballot during the election.

Attitudinal Barriers

Voters worried about:

- Wasting votes on a candidate that stands little chance of winning.
- Throwing the election to a candidate furthest from preferences by not voting for one that is closer.

Our system of Checks and Balances:



The **Legislature** is broken into 2 chambers:

<i>Chambers of Congress</i>	UNITED STATES SENATE (100 MEMBERS)	U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (435 MEMBERS)
<i>Qualifications for Office</i>	30 years old U.S. citizen for the last 9 years Live in the state they represent	25 years old U.S. citizen for the last 7 years Live in the state they represent
<i>Special Duties</i>	Approves presidential appointments, such as judges, cabinet members, and ambassadors.	All bills that relate to taxes must start in the House of Representatives



The Lawmaking process:

1. Members of Congress, the Executive branch, or others groups can draft (write or draw up) a bill.
2. The chamber where the bill is introduced will assign it to a committee that holds hearings.
3. Once the bill is thoroughly debated, it needs to be approved in committee and then the full chamber.
4. When the bill is approved in the committees, a Rules Committee issues guidance for debate in the chamber and sends it to the full Senate and/or House of Representatives where amendments to the bill can be made.
5. Once the full Senate and House of Representatives approve the same bill, it is sent to the President to be signed.
6. If President decides to veto the bill by not signing it, Congress can override the veto when 2/3 of members in both chambers vote to approve the bill.

The **Members of Congress** take 4 factors into consideration when deciding to vote on a bill:

Is the proposed bill aligned with the Constitution?

What are my personal views on the proposed legislation?

What are the views of my constituents on the proposed legislation?

What are the views of my political party on the proposed legislation?