

## Vocabuilder: Government

### VOCAB LIST: The Governing Process

**majority party** – the political party with the most members in a government

**minority party** – a political party other than the majority party

*In the recent elections, the Democrats became the majority party in Congress, and the Republicans are now the minority party.*

**propose** – to suggest; to put out an idea (for a law, rule, etc.)

**bill** – a law that has been proposed but has not been approved yet

*Senator Smith wrote a bill proposing that we lower the income tax rate for all citizens. Since Senator Smith is in the minority party, this bill is not expected to pass.*

**committee** – a group of people (in the legislature) who work on specific issues and sometimes write reports or propose laws

*After spending months analyzing the government's budget, the Finance Committee proposed some spending cuts this week.*

**alliance** – an agreement between people or groups to work together for the same goal

*Two minority parties formed an alliance to prevent the majority party from achieving its goals.*

**negotiate** – to talk or discuss an issue in order to reach an agreement

*After weeks of negotiations, the majority party and the minority party reached an agreement.*

**institute (v.)** – to establish or set up (a law, policy, etc.)

**policy** – an official plan for how a person/group/government behaves

*Congress instituted a new policy that requires every member to vote on a bill.*

**corruption** – dishonesty or illegal behavior by people in power

*Many people no longer trust the government due to the rampant corruption that has occurred in recent years.*

*Governor Ryan was found guilty of corruption because he took money from his brother's oil company and then proposed a new energy policy that would help his brother's company.*

**revolutionize** – to cause very big changes

*The internet revolutionized how we communicate with people.*

*This new health care bill will revolutionize the health care system in this country.*

**rights** – benefits that are guaranteed to people by a law, constitution, policy, etc.

**privileges** – special benefits that are only available to certain people

*Everyone in this country has the right to free speech. However, not everyone has the right to drive a car. You must first get a driver's license, and this license can be taken away. So driving is a privilege, not a right.*

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### VOCAB REVIEW: The Governing Process

majority party	propose	bill	committee	
minority party	alliance	negotiate	institute	privileges
policy	corruption	revolutionize	rights	

1. The Senators voted on a \_\_\_\_\_ that would make gambling illegal.
2. The Democratic party has 60% of the representatives in our legislature, so they are the \_\_\_\_\_. The Republicans, with only 40%, are the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The two minority parties have an \_\_\_\_\_ which helps them stop the majority party from passing laws.
4. The invention of the internet and email has \_\_\_\_\_ the way we communicate with each other.
5. In the USA, everyone has the \_\_\_\_\_ to go to elementary school, junior high, and high school. Going to college, however, is considered a \_\_\_\_\_ -- not everyone has the right to do it.
6. The budget \_\_\_\_\_ will meet next week to decide how much money to spend next year.
7. According to school \_\_\_\_\_, girls are not allowed to wear mini-skirts and boys are not allowed to have long hair.
8. People are frustrated in the government because there is so much lying and \_\_\_\_\_. No one trusts their representatives anymore.
9. Mexico and the United States are meeting this week to \_\_\_\_\_ a trade agreement that would lower taxes and allow free trade between the two countries.
10. Senator Johnson \_\_\_\_\_ a bill that would make smoking illegal, but the other Senators voted against it, so it did not become law.
11. Alfred Nobel \_\_\_\_\_ the Nobel Prize in 1895 to award major accomplishments in science and culture.