

The USA is a Federal system: power is divided between a central government and the States.



The Constitution created three separate branches of government. Each branch has its own powers and areas of influence.

- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch

# The Legislative Branch consists of the Congress

- responsible for making  
the federal laws



# The Congress:

**The House of Representatives**

**The Senate**



# Meeting place – the United States Capitol



# Executive Branch

- The president
- The vice president
- 15 Cabinet-level executive departments

## Function:

- executing, enforcing and administering the laws and government

Barack Obama is the 44<sup>th</sup> and current president





The White House serves as the official residence for the president





The Cabinet is made up of the heads of the 15 main executive departments



# The Judicial Branch is headed by the Supreme Court



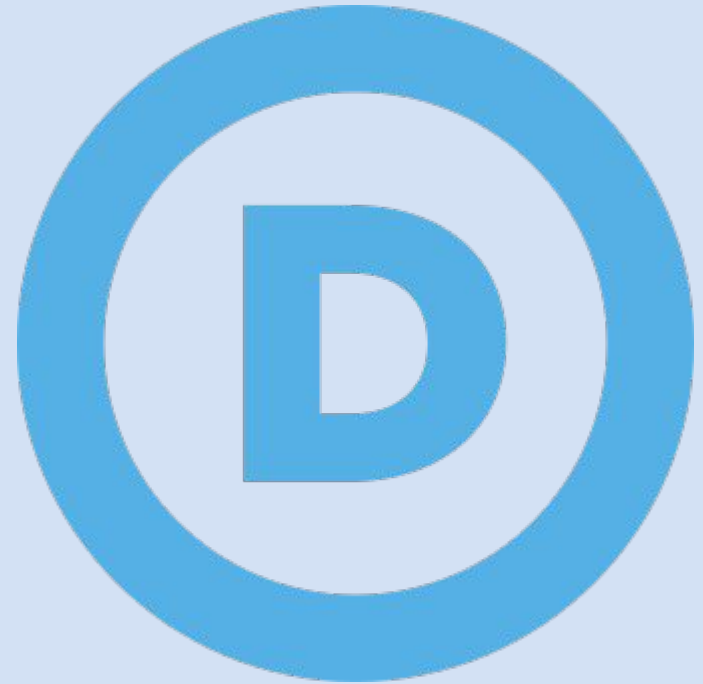
The United States has two major political parties:

- Democrats
- Republicans

The United States government is often called a  
“two-party system”

# The Democratic party

- larger government programs
- higher taxes





# The Republican Party

- smaller government programs
- lower taxes

GOP (abbreviation for Grand Old Party)



# Other smaller parties:

The Green Party



The Libertarian Party



The Constitution Party



# Questions:

1. How is power divided in the USA?
2. What are three main branches of government?
3. Why is the US government called a “two-party system”?