Chapter 10, Section 3 – The Senate

Election and Terms

- The Senate consists of 100 members, two from each State.
- Since 1914, members of the Senate have been chosen by the people at regular November elections.
- Senators serve six-year terms that are staggered so that only a third of the members are up for election every two years.
- Because Senators serve longer terms than House members and because they represent the views of their entire State, senators are expected to focus less on the interests of small localities and more on the interests of their entire State and the nation.

Qualifications for Senators

- Senators must be at least 30 years of age, must have been a citizen for at least 9 years, and must be an inhabitant of the State which he or she represents.
- The Senate judges the qualifications of its members and may exclude a member-elect by a majority vote. The Senate may punish members with a majority vote or expel them with a two-thirds vote.