

MAJORITY VS. SUPERMAJORITY - HOW MANY VOTES ARE NEEDED? (And what the heck is a plurality?)

MAJORITY

Definition - a number that is greater than half of a total (50% + 1)

- Bill to pass either chamber
- Electoral College vote for the president
- Declare war
- Impeach a president or federal official (only by the House)
- Confirm presidential appointments (only in the Senate)

SUPERMAJORITY

Definition - a majority (as two-thirds or three-fourths) greater than a simple majority

- **Two-Thirds Vote**
 - Override a presidential veto (must be 2/3 of EACH chamber)
 - Find a president or federal official guilty of impeachment charges (only by the Senate)
 - Propose an amendment to the Constitution (only happens at national level)
 - Ratify a treaty (only in the Senate)
- **Three-Fourths Vote**
 - Ratify an amendment to the Constitution (only happens at state level)
- **Three-Fifths Vote**
 - To invoke cloture (end filibuster) in the Senate

PLURALITY

Definition - the number of votes cast for a candidate who receives more than any other, but does not have to receive a majority

- **Example**
 - Candidate A receives 45% of the vote, Candidate B receives 35%, and Candidate C receives 20%
 - Candidate A wins by a plurality