
Germany



Political System



Federal System

- Basic Law (Germany's Constitution)
 - Guarantees social, economic, political rights
 - Legislature checks the government

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC)

- Hears cases: constitutionality of state/fed laws
- Reviews laws passed

Electoral System

Legislative

Bundestag

- Represents people
- Voters elect: 4 year terms
- 622 members
- Most powerful
- Chooses head of government

Bundesrat

- *Federal Council: 69 members
- *States have representation
 - Laws like education
- *State select representatives
- *Mediation Committees

The Executive

Head of State - President

- Elected by Federal Convention: 5 year term
- Powers of office: largely ceremonial/calls elections
- Must sign federal laws into effect

Head of Government - Chancellor (4 year term)

Fusion: Executive & Legislative - power in chancellor & cabinet

German Political Parties

- Christian Democratic Union (CDU)
- Christian Social Union (CSU)
- Social Democratic Party (SPD)
- Alternative for Germany
- Free Democratic Party (FDP)
- Left Party
- Greens

