

VOLUME X, NUMBER 2 113TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION
JULY - DECEMBER, 2013



Jewish Community Voter Guide 2013

This guide contains the voting records of members of the United States Congress on issues of concern to the Jewish community. Included are key votes on immigration, foreign aid, student loans, health care, and employee non-discrimination.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN CONGRESS

As you read this guide, take note of how your senators and representative voted on issues that matter to you. Contact them regularly and let them know where you stand. Your message may be as simple as the samples below:

Addresses:

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sample letter/e-mail:

Dear Senator/Rep.
I am writing to ask you to support/vote against
(issue, bill #, if you know it).
This issue is important and deserves your attention.
Sincerely,
Your name, address

Phone: Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121

Sample phone call:

“Hello. My name is and I am
a constituent. I would like to register my opinion on the
issue of
I am in favor of/opposed to it. Please pass this information
along to Senator/Rep.
Thank you.”

E-mail: www.congress.org provides access to all elected officials. To contact your senators and representative, just enter your zip code.

Please take the time to communicate with your elected officials after a vote has taken place. Thanking them for favorable votes is as important as expressing disapproval for unfavorable ones.

ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE

This is Volume X, Number 2 of the Jewish Community Voter Guide, published twice a year by the JAC Education Foundation. The Voter Guide is for informational purposes only and is not intended to influence the outcome of any election.

The JAC Education Foundation does not advocate the election or defeat of any candidate and does not endorse any political party. The information in this Voter Guide is provided as a resource to help you understand the issues before the 113th Congress, to communicate your opinions to elected officials on these issues, and to make you an informed participant in the political process.

ABOUT THE JAC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The JAC Education Foundation was formed to educate and engage the Jewish community in electoral politics and issues of Jewish concern. The Jewish community is no longer immune to the apathy and ignorance that affect the nation as a whole. We cannot take elections for granted: we must educate ourselves, register and vote, and urge others to do the same.

The JAC Education Foundation seeks to increase political involvement through knowledge of:

- how to be an effective advocate
- which legislative issues are important
- what Congressional action has been taken

ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL INDEX

This is a record of how each member of the United States Congress voted on issues of concern to American Jewry as identified by the JAC Education Foundation in consultation with recognized authorities who monitor these issues. Read the vote descriptions. Examine the Congressional index to learn how members of Congress voted. These votes indicate where members of Congress stand on key issues.

Calls, mail and faxes are tallied.
They do make a difference.



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DESCRIPTION OF SENATE VOTES

- 1) **S 744 Immigration Overhaul/passage.** Passage of a bill that would overhaul the U.S. immigration policies, create an incremental path to citizenship for most undocumented immigrants in the country and institute new border security measures. It would require the Homeland Security Department to complete certain security measures – including 700 miles of fencing along the southern border, nationwide use of its E-Verify system and a biometric entry-exit system – before illegal immigrants receiving provisional legal status became permanent residents. It would make available \$42.5 billion for increased security measures. It would create visa programs for agricultural and low-skilled workers from 65,000 to 115,000 annually. The bill would create a program to allocate additional green cards on a merit-based system, with consideration given to family ties in the U.S. and to the country’s economic needs. Would require DHS to annually audit its E-Verify system and begin removal proceedings for people who stay beyond their visas. Would prevent immigrants from claiming Social Security benefits for work they did while unauthorized and bar non-citizens from receiving public assistance. Passed 68-32; 6/27/13.
- 2) **HR 1911 Student Loan Interest Rate/Passage.** Passage of the bill that set federal student loan interest rates issued after July 1, 2013 to the Treasury Department’s 10-year borrowing rate, plus 2.05% for subsidized and unsubsidized undergraduate loans, 3.6% for graduate loans and 4.6% for PLUS loans. The loan rates would be capped at 8.25%, 9.5%, and 10.5% respectively. It would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report to Congress within four months detailing the federal government’s cost of administering the student loan program and recommendations to avoid generating additional revenue from the program. Passed 81-18 (By unanimous consent, the Senate agreed to raise the majority requirement for passage of the bill to 60 votes.); 7/24/13.
- 3) **S1243 Fiscal 2014 Transportation HUD Appropriations/Aid to Egypt.** Corker (R-TN) motion to table (kill) the Paul (R-KY) amendment that would establish that the July 3, 2013 military takeover in Egypt was a coup d’etat and prohibit the State Department from providing assistance to Egypt until another democratic election occurs, followed by the peaceful transfer of power. Under the amendment, aid to Egypt would be redirected toward an account created in the bill for bridge repair and construction along critical highway corridors. Motion agreed to 86-13; 7/31/13.
- 4) **HJ Res 59 Fiscal 2014 Continuing Appropriations/Passage.** Passage of the joint resolution that would provide continuing appropriations for government operations through November 15, 2013, reflecting an annual discretionary level of \$986.3 billion, the sequestration funding level. This version of the Continuing Resolution stripped wording that would have defunded the 2010 healthcare overhaul as passing the House. Passed 54-44; 9/27/13.
- 5) **HR 2775 Fiscal 2014 Continuing Appropriations Debt Limit Suspension/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would provide continuing appropriations for government operations through January 15, 2014, reflecting an annual discretionary level of about \$986 billion. It would allow federal borrowing to continue through February 7, 2014, after the president certifies that the Treasury cannot pay its obligations, and would set up an expedited process for Congress to consider resolutions of disapproval for the debt limit increase authorized by the bill. It would also provide for retroactive pay for federal employees who worked through the government shutdown that began October 1, 2013 and for workers furloughed during that time. The bill would also require the Health and Human Services Department to verify the income qualifications of people who apply for tax subsidies under the 2010 healthcare overhaul. Passed 81-18; 10/16/13.
- 6) **S 815 Employee Non-Discrimination Act/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would prohibit employers, employment agencies and labor organizations from discriminating against an employee, applicant or member on the basis of his or her perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity. It would prohibit federal agencies and state and local governments from penalizing or withholding licensed, government contracts, tax-exempt status or other benefits from religious organizations exempted from the bill. Passed 64-32; 11/7/13 .
- 7) **SI 197 Fiscal 2014 Defense Authorization/Guantanamo Bay Detainees.** Levin (D-MI) amendment that would prohibit the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay military facilities to the United States until 60 days after the Defense Department submits to Congress a plan to close the facilities, including information about where each detainee would be transferred and actions to mitigate threats they may pose in the future. It would clarify that a detainee transferred to the United States would not receive additional legal rights, such as the ability to apply for asylum. It would also preclude detainee transfers from judicial review, except as it pertains to a detainee’s ability to file a writ of habeas corpus. Rejected 52-46 (By unanimous consent, the Senate agreed to raise the majority requirement for adoption of the Levin amendment to 60 votes.); 11/19/2013.

United States Senate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ALABAMA							
<i>Sessions</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	NV	N
<i>Shelby</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
ALASKA							
<i>Begich</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Murkowski</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
ARIZONA							
<i>Flake</i>	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	N
<i>McCain</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
ARKANSAS							
<i>Boozman</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Pryor</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
CALIFORNIA							
<i>Boxer</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Feinstein</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
COLORADO							
<i>Bennet</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Udall</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CONNECTICUT							
<i>Blumenthal</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Murphy</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DELAWARE							
<i>Carper</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Coons</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FLORIDA							
<i>Nelson</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Rubio</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
GEORGIA							
<i>Chambliss</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Isakson</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	NV
HAWAII							
<i>Hirono</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Schatz</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
IDAHO							
<i>Crapo</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Risch</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
ILLINOIS							
<i>Durbin</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Kirk</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
INDIANA							
<i>Coats</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Donnelly</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
IOWA							
<i>Grassley</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
<i>Harkin</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KANSAS							
<i>Moran</i>	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
<i>Roberts</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
KENTUCKY							
<i>McConnell</i>	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
<i>Paul</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
LOUISIANA							
<i>Landrieu</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Vitter</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
MAINE							
<i>Collins</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
King	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MARYLAND							
<i>Cardin</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Mikulski</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MASSACHUSETTS							
<i>Cowan*</i>	Y						
<i>Markey*</i>		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Warren</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
MICHIGAN							
<i>Levin</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Stabenow</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MINNESOTA							
<i>Franken</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Klobuchar</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MISSISSIPPI							
<i>Cochran</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Wicker</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
MISSOURI							
<i>Blunt</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	NV
<i>McCaskill</i>	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MONTANA							
<i>Baucus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Tester</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NEBRASKA							
<i>Fisher</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Johanns</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
NEVADA							
<i>Heller</i>	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
<i>Reid</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
<i>Ayotte</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Shaheen</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NEW JERSEY							
<i>Chrisa*</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		
<i>Booker*</i>						Y	Y
<i>Menendez</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NEW MEXICO							
<i>Heinrich</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Udall</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NEW YORK							
<i>Gillibrand</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Schumer</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NORTH CAROLINA							
<i>Burr</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Hagan</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NORTH DAKOTA							
<i>Heitkamp</i>	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Hoeven</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
OHIO							
<i>Brown</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Portman</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
OKLAHOMA							
<i>Coburn</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	NV	N
<i>Inhofe</i>	N	Y	Y	N	NV	N	N
OREGON							
<i>Merkley</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Wyden</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
PENNSYLVANIA							
<i>Casey</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
<i>Toomey</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
RHODE ISLAND							
<i>Reed</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Whitehouse</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SOUTH CAROLINA							
<i>Graham</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Scott</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
SOUTH DAKOTA							
<i>Johnson</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Thune</i>	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
TENNESSEE							
<i>Alexander</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
<i>Corker</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
TEXAS							
<i>Cornyn</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<i>Cruz</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
UTAH							
<i>Hatch</i>	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	N
<i>Lee</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
VERMONT							
<i>Leahy</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Sanders	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
VIRGINIA							
<i>Kaine</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Warner</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WASHINGTON							
<i>Cantwell</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Murray</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WEST VIRGINIA							
<i>Manchin</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Rockefeller</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WISCONSIN							
<i>Baldwin</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Johnson</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
WYOMING							
<i>Barrasso</i>	N	Y	N	N	Y	NV	N
<i>Enzi</i>	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N

key

Democrats

Republicans

Independents

Y = "Yes" (vote in favor of the measure described in vote description)

N = "No" (vote against the measure described in vote description)

NV = No vote recorded on the measure described in vote description

Blank space indicates that person was not in office when votes were cast

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE VOTES

- 1) **HR 1864 Sexual Assault Investigations/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with respect to the Coast Guard, or any of the military departments to investigate allegations of retaliatory personnel actions taken in response to making protected communications to such Inspector General regarding alleged instances of rape, sexual assault, or other forms of sexual misconduct in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Passed 423-0; 6/27/13.
- 2) **HR 5 Education Law/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would reauthorize and overhaul current elementary and secondary education law through fiscal 2019. The bill would require states to set academic standards in reading, math and science for all students and schools within a state. States would be able to develop standards in other subjects at their own discretion; would permit states to develop their own accountability systems. States and school districts would be required to create teacher and principal evaluation systems. Title I funds would be allowed to follow individual students to other public or charter schools. Passed 221-207; 7/19/13.
- 3) **HR 2397 Fiscal 2014 Defense Appropriations/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would provide \$512.5 billion in non-war discretionary funding for the Defense Department in fiscal 2014: \$82.3 billion to support operations in Afghanistan and the general war on terrorism, \$241.1 billion for operations and maintenance, \$105.5 billion for procurement, \$66.5 billion for research and development, and \$139.3 billion for military personnel, including a 1.8% pay raise. The Defense Health Program would receive \$34.5 billion. As amended, the bill would bar the use of funds by the National Security Administration (NSA) to target U.S. persons or acquire and store the content of electronic communications of U.S. persons, including phone calls and emails. Passed 315-109; 7/24/13.
- 4) **HR 850 Nuclear Iran Prevention Act/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would impose increased sanctions on Iran, including broader economic penalties. Countries purchasing crude oil from Iran would be requested to reduce their combined purchases, additional shipping sanctions would be imposed, and Iran's access to overseas foreign currency reserves would be limited. The bill would expand existing sanctions relating to Iran's human rights and terrorism. Motion agreed to. 400-20; 7/31/13.
- 5) **HR 1582 Environmental Protection Agency Energy Regulations/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would prohibit the EPA from finalizing energy-related regulations estimated to cost more than \$1 billion if the Energy Department determines the rule would cause significant adverse effects to the economy. If the EPA determines the proposed regulation would cause more than \$1 billion, a report would have to be submitted to Congress and the Energy Department. Would further require the EPA to make public all data and documents relied upon by the agency to develop estimates of a rule's benefits. Passed 232-181; 8/1/13.
- 6) **HR 2009 IRS Enforcement of Health Care/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would prohibit the Treasury Secretary or the IRS from implementing or enforcing any provisions of the 2010 ACA healthcare law. Passed 232-185; 8/2/13. Referred to Senate Judiciary committee.
- 7) **HR 301 Religious Freedom Envoy/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would direct the President to appoint a special envoy within the State Department to promote religious freedom in the Near East and South Central Asia. The bill would authorize \$1 million per year for fiscal years 2014-2018 for the envoy and staff. The Secretary of State would be required to offset the amount with equivalent staff reductions elsewhere in the department. Motion agreed to 402-22; 9/18/13. Referred to Senate Finance Committee.
- 8) **HR 3102 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would reauthorize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly referred to as food stamps. States would be allowed to impose new work requirements on SNAP recipients, including parents of young children exempt under current law. It would require that individuals receive at least \$20 or more in aid through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to qualify for automatic increases in SNAP benefits, and would authorize states to conduct drug testing on applicants as a condition of receiving benefits. Stores authorized to accept SNAP benefits would be required to purchase point-of-sale equipment to track where the benefits are used. Passed 217-210; 9/19/13.
- 9) **HR 3080 Water Projects Authorization/Environmental Reviews.** DeFazio (D-OR) amendment that would delay the effective date of provisions that would streamline environmental reviews until the Army Secretary certifies to Congress that the cost to construct all uncompleted, authorized water resources development projects is less than \$20 billion. Rejected by Committee of the Whole. 183-236; 10/23/13.
- 10) **HR 2374 Fiduciary Care Standards/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would prohibit the Labor Department from issuing regulations regarding fiduciary care standards under federal law on private pension plans until 60 days after the SEC finalized its own rule. The measure would require the SEC to identify whether expanded fiduciary standards would result in less access to financial products and services for retail investors and to submit formal findings that any final rule would reduce retail investor confusion over the standards of conduct that apply to brokers and advisers. Passed 254-166 10/29/13. Referred to Senate Finance Committee.

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10											
ALABAMA																																
1 Bonner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					47 Lowenthal	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N											
2 Roby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	48 Rohrabacher	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
3 Rogers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	49 Issa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
4 Aderholt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	50 Hunter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
5 Brooks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	51 Vargas	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
6 Bachus	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	52 Peters	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y										
7 Sewell	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	53 Davis	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
ALASKA																																
a-1 Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	COLORADO																					
ARIZONA																																
1 Kirkpatrick	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1 DeGette	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
2 Barber	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Polis	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	NV	Y	N	Y										
3 Grijalva	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Tipton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
4 Gosar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	4 Gardner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
5 Salmon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5 Lamborn	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
6 Schweikert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6 Coffman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
7 Pastor	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	7 Perlmutter	Y	N	N	Y	N	NV	NV	N	Y	Y	Y										
8 Franks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	CONNECTICUT																					
9 Sinema	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	1 Larson	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
ARKANSAS																																
1 Crawford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	2 Courtney	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
2 Griffin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	3 DeLauro	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
3 Womack	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	4 Himes	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y										
4 Cotton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5 Esty	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
CALIFORNIA																																
1 LaMalfa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	DELAWARE																					
2 Huffman	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	a-1 Carney	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y										
3 Garamendi	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	FLORIDA																					
4 McClintock	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	1 Miller	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	NV	Y	Y	N	Y	Y										
5 Thompson	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Southerland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
6 Matsui	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Yoho	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
7 Bera	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	4 Crenshaw	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
8 Cook	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5 Brown	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y										
9 McNERNEY	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	6 DeSantis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
10 Denham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	7 Mica	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
11 Miller, George	Y	N	N	N	NV	NV	NV	N	Y	N	8 Posey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
12 Pelosi	Y	N	N	Y	NV	N	Y	N	Y	N	9 Grayson	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	NV										
13 Lee	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	10 Webster	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
14 Speier	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	11 Nugent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y										
15 Swalwell	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	12 Bilirakis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y										
16 Costa	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	13 Young	NV	Y	Y	NV	NV	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y										
17 Honda	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	14 Castor	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N										
18 Eshoo	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	15 Ross	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N										
19 Lofgren	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	16 Buchanan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
20 Farr	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	17 Rooney	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
21 Valadao	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	18 Murphy	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y									
22 Nunes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	19 Radel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
23 McCarthy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	20 Hastings	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
24 Capps	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	21 Deutch	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y									
25 McKeon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	22 Frankel	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
26 Brownley	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	23 Wasserman Shultz	Y	N	Y	Y	NV	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	NV									
27 Chu	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	24 Wilson	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
28 Schiff	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	25 Diaz-Balart	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y									
29 Cardenas	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	26 Garcia	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y									
30 Sherman	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	27 Ros-Lehtinen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
31 Miller, Gary	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	GEORGIA																					
32 Napolitano	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	1 Kingston	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
33 Waxman	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Bishop	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N									
34 Becerra	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Westmoreland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y									
35 Negrete Mcleod	Y	NV	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	4 Johnson	Y	N	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
36 Ruiz	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	5 Lewis	Y	N	N	Y	NV	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
37 Bass	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	6 Price	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
38 Sanchez, Linda	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	7 Woodall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y									
39 Royce	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	8 Scott, A.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
40 Roybal-Allard	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	NV	N	9 Collins	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	NV	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y									
41 Takano	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	10 Broun	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y									
42 Calvert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	11 Gingrey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y									
43 Waters	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	12 Barrow	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y									
44 Hahn	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	13 Scott, D.	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
45 Campbell	NV	Y	NV	NV	NV	NV	Y	Y	NV	NV	14 Graves	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y									
46 Sanchez, Loretta	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	HAWAII																					
IDAHO																																
1 Labrador	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1 Hanabusa	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									
2 Simpson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2 Gabbard	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N									

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
ILLINOIS											MICHIGAN												
1 Rush	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	NV	NV	NV	1 Benishek	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
2 Kelly	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Huizenga	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
3 Lipinski	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Amash	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	
4 Gutierrez	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	4 Camp	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
5 Quigley	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	5 Kildee	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
6 Roskam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6 Upton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
7 Davis, D.	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	NV	NV	N	7 Walberg	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
8 Duckworth	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	NV	N	8 Rogers	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	
9 Schakowsky	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	9 Levin	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
10 Schneider	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	10 Miller	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	
11 Foster	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	11 Bentivolio	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	
12 Enyart	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	12 Dingell	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
13 Davis, R.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	13 Conyers	NV	N	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
14 Hultgren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	14 Peters	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
15 Shimkus	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	MINNESOTA												
16 Kinzinger	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	1 Walz	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
17 Bustos	Y	N	NV	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Kline	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	
18 Schock	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	3 Paulsen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
INDIANA											4 McCollum	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
1 Visclosky	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	5 Ellison	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
2 Walorski	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6 Bachmann	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	
3 Stutzman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	7 Peterson	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	
4 Rokita	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	8 Nolan	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
5 Brooks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	MISSISSIPPI												
6 Messer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	1 Nunnelee	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
7 Carson	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Thompson	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
8 Bucshon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	3 Harper	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
9 Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	4 Palazzo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
IOWA											MISSOURI												
1 Braley	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	1 Clay	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
2 Loebsack	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Wagner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
3 Latham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	3 Luëtkemeyer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
4 King	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y	4 Hartzler	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
KANSAS											5 Cleaver	Y	N	N	Y	N	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
1 Huelskamp	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6 Graves	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
2 Jenkins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	7 Long	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
3 Yoder	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	8 Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
4 Pompeo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	MONTANA												
KENTUCKY											a-1 Daines	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
1 Whitfield	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	NEBRASKA												
2 Guthrie	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	1 Fortenberry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	
3 Yarmuth	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Terry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
4 Massie	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	3 Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
5 Rogers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	NEVADA												
6 Barr	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	1 Titus	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
LOUISIANA											2 Amodei	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
1 Scalise	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	3 Heck	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
2 Richmond	Y	N	N	Y	NV	NV	Y	N	Y	N	4 Horsford	Y	NV	NV	NV	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
3 Boustany	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	NEW HAMPSHIRE												
4 Fleming	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	1 Shea-Porter	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
5 Alexander	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	2 Kuster	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
6 Cassidy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	N	Y	NEW JERSEY												
MAINE											1 Andrews	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
1 Pingree	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 LoBiondo	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	
2 Michaud	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Runyan	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	
MARYLAND											4 Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
1 Harris	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5 Garrett	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
2 Ruppersberger	Y	N	Y	Y	NV	N	Y	N	Y	N	6 Pallone	Y	NV	N	Y	NV	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
3 Sarbanes	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	7 Lance	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	
4 Edwards	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	8 Sires	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
5 Hoyer	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	9 Pascrell	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
6 Delaney	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	10 Payne, Jr.	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
7 Cummings	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	11 Frelinghuysen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
8 Van Hollen	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	12 Holt	Y	N	N	NV	NV	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
MASSACHUSETTS											NEW MEXICO												
1 Neal	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	1 Lujan Grisham	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
2 McGovern	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 Pearce	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
3 Tsongas	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Lujan	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
4 Kennedy	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	NEW YORK												
5 Markey	Y										1 Bishop	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	
6 Tierney	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	2 King	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	
7 Capuano	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3 Israel	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
8 Lynch	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	4 McCarthy	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	
9 Keating	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	5 Meeks	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
UTAH										
1 Bishop	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
2 Stewart	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
3 Chaffetz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
4 Matheson	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
VERMONT										
a-1 Welch	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
VIRGINIA										
1 Wittman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
2 Rigell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
3 Scott	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
4 Forbes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
5 Hurt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
6 Goodlatte	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
7 Cantor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
8 Moran	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
9 Griffith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
10 Wolf	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
11 Connolly	NV	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
WASHINGTON										
1 DelBene	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
2 Larsen	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
3 Herrera Beutler	Y	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
4 Hastings	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
5 McMorris-Rodgers	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
6 Kilmer	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
7 McDermott	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
8 Reichert	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
9 Smith	NV	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
10 Heck	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
WEST VIRGINIA										
1 McKinley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
2 Capito	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
3 Rahall	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
WISCONSIN										
1 Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
2 Pocan	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
3 Kind	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
4 Moore	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
5 Sensenbrenner	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
6 Petri	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
7 Duffy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
8 Ribble	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
WYOMING										
a-1 Lummis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y

HOW LAWS ARE MADE

Laws may be initiated in either chamber of Congress, the House of Representatives or the Senate. As the majority of laws originate in the House of Representatives, this summary will focus principally on the procedure in that body.

1. When a Representative has an idea for a new law, s/he becomes the sponsor of that bill and introduces it by giving it to the clerk of the House or by placing it in a box, called the hopper. The clerk assigns a legislative number to the bill, with H.R. for bills introduced in the House and S. for bills introduced in the Senate. The Government Printing Office (GPO) then prints the bill and distributes copies to each representative.

2. Next, the bill is assigned to a committee (the House has 20 standing committees, each with jurisdiction over bills in certain areas) by the Speaker of the House so that it can be studied.

The standing committee (or often a subcommittee) studies the bill and hears testimony from experts and people interested in the bill. The committee then may release the bill with a recommendation to pass it, or revise the bill and release it, or lay it aside so that the House cannot vote on it. Releasing the bill is called reporting it out, while laying it aside is called tabling.

3. If the bill is released, it then goes on a calendar (a list of bills awaiting action). Here the House Rules Committee may call for the bill to be voted on quickly, limit the debate, or limit or prohibit amendments. Undisputed bills may be passed by unanimous consent, or by a two-thirds vote if members agree to suspend the rules.

4. The bill now goes to the floor of the House for consideration and begins with a complete reading of the bill (sometimes this is the only complete reading). A third reading (title only) occurs after any amendments have been added. If the bill passes by simple majority (218 of 435), the bill moves to the Senate.

5. In order to be introduced in the Senate, a senator must be recognized by the Presiding Officer and announce the introduction of the bill. Sometimes, when a bill has passed in one house, it becomes known as an act; however, this term usually means a bill that has been passed by both houses and becomes law.

6. Just as in the House, the bill then is assigned to a committee. It is assigned to one of the Senate's 20 standing committees by the Presiding Officer. The Senate committee studies and either releases or tables the bill just like the House standing committee.

7. Once released, the bill goes to the Senate floor for consideration. Bills are voted on in the Senate based on the order they come from the committee; however, an urgent bill may be pushed ahead by leaders of the majority party. When the Senate considers the bill, they can vote on it indefinitely. When there is no more debate, the bill is voted on. A simple majority (51 of 100) passes the bill.

8. The bill now moves onto a conference committee, which is made up of members from each chamber. The committee works out any differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The revised bill is sent back to both the House and Senate for their final approval. Once approved, the bill is printed by the Government Printing Office (GPO) in a process called enrolling. The clerk from the introducing chamber certifies the final version.

9. The enrolled bill is now signed by the Speaker of the House and then the Vice President. Finally, it is sent for presidential consideration. The President has 10 days to sign or veto the enrolled bill. If the President vetoes the bill, it can still become a law if two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House then vote in favor of the bill.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Act. A bill or joint resolution which has passed both chambers of Congress in identical form, been signed into law by the president, or passed over his veto, thus becoming law. Technically, this term also refers to a bill that has been passed by one house and engrossed (prepared as an official copy).

Amendment. A proposal to alter the text of a pending bill or other measure by striking out some of it, by inserting new language, or both.

Appropriation. The provision of funds, through an annual appropriations act or a permanent law, for federal agencies to make payments out of the Treasury for specified purposes.

Bill. The principal vehicle employed by lawmakers for introducing their proposals (enacting or repealing laws, for example) in the Senate and House. Bills are designated S. 1, S. 2, H. 1, H.2, and so on depending on the order in which they are introduced. They address either matters of general interest (“public bills”) or narrow interest (“private bills”), such as immigration cases and individual claims against the Federal government.

Caucus. An informal organization of members of the House or the Senate, or both, that exists to discuss issues of mutual concern and possibly to perform legislative research and policy planning for its members. There are regional, political or ideological, ethnic, and economic-based caucuses.

Cloture. The only procedure by which the Senate can place a time limit on consideration of a bill or other matter, and thereby overcome filibuster. Under the cloture rule, the Senate may limit consideration of a pending matter to 30 additional hours, but only by vote of three-fifths of the full Senate, normally 60 votes.

Committee. Subsidiary organizations established for the purpose of considering legislation, conducting hearings and investigations, or carrying out other assignments as instructed by the parent chamber.

Ex Officio. Literally, by virtue of one’s office. The term refers to the practice under rules that allows the chairman and ranking minority member of a committee to participate in any of the subcommittees of that committee, but generally not to vote.

Filibuster. Informal term for any attempt to block or delay action on a bill or other matter by debating it at length, by offering numerous procedural motions, or by any other delaying or obstructive actions.

Floor Leaders. The majority leader and minority leader are elected by their respective party conferences to serve as the chief spokesmen for their parties and to manage and schedule the legislative and executive business. By custom, the presiding officer gives the floor leaders priority in obtaining recognition to speak on the floor.

Hearing. A meeting of a committee or subcommittee — generally open to the public — to take testimony in order to gather information and opinions on proposed legislation, to conduct an investigation, or review the operation or other aspects of a Federal agency or program.

Hold. An informal practice by which a lawmaker informs his or her floor leader that he or she does not wish a particular bill or other measure to reach the floor for consideration. The majority leader need not follow the lawmaker’s wishes, but is on notice that the opposing lawmaker may filibuster any motion to proceed to consider the measure.

“Lame-Duck” Session. When Congress (or either chamber) reconvenes in an even-numbered year following the November general elections to consider various items of business. Some lawmakers who return for this session will not be in the next Congress. Hence, they are informally called “lame duck” members participating in a “lame duck” session.

Layover. Informal term for a period of delay required by rule. For example, when a bill or other measure is reported from committee, it may be considered on the floor only after it “lies over” for one legislative day and after the written report has been available for two calendar days. Layover periods may be waived by unanimous consent.

Majority and Minority Leaders. See Floor Leaders.

Motion to Table. Used in both the Senate and House, if adopted a motion to table permanently kills a pending matter and ends any further debate on the matter.

“Must-Pass” Bill. A vitally important measure that Congress must enact, such as annual money bills to fund operations of the government. Because of their must-pass quality, these measures often attract “riders” (unrelated policy provisos).

Quorum. The number of lawmakers that must be present for the Senate to do business. The Constitution requires a majority of senators (51) for a quorum. Often, fewer senators are actually present on the floor, but the Senate presumes that a quorum is present unless the contrary is shown by a roll call vote or quorum call.

Ranking Minority Member. The highest ranking (and usually longest serving) minority member of a committee or subcommittee.

Reconciliation Bill. A bill containing changes in law recommended pursuant to reconciliation instructions in a budget resolution. If the instructions pertain to only one committee in a chamber, that committee reports the reconciliation bill. If the instructions pertain to more than one committee, the Budget Committee reports an omnibus reconciliation bill, but it may not make substantive changes in the recommendations of the other committees.

Rider. Informal term for a non-germane amendment to a bill or an amendment to an appropriation bill that changes the permanent law governing a program funded by the bill

Roll Call Vote. A vote in which each senator votes “yea” or “nay” as his or her name is called by the clerk, so that the names of senators voting on each side are recorded. Under the Constitution, a roll call vote must be held if demanded by one-fifth of a quorum of senators present, a minimum of 11.

Whips. Assistants to the floor leaders who are also elected by their party conferences. The majority and minority whips (and their assistants) are responsible for mobilizing votes within their parties on major issues. In the absence of a party floor leader, the whip often serves as acting floor leader.