

## 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 22 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 16 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.

## Jewish Community Voter Guide 2012

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 Israel, reproductive rights, defense, energy/ environment, budget, education, health care and more.

**DESCRIPTION OF SENATE VOTES****I. HR 3630 Payroll Tax Relief Extension/Conference Report.**

**Report.** Conference report on the bill that would extend the 4.2% employee payroll tax rate through 2012. It also would renew long-term unemployment benefits into January 2013. The current Medicare reimbursement rate for physicians would be preserved through 2012, preventing a scheduled 27.4% payment cut. Adopted 60-36; 2/17/2012. Signed by the President 2/22/2012.

**2. S 1813 Surface Transportation Authorization/**

**Religious Exemptions for Health Care.** Murray (D-WA) motion to table (kill) the Blunt (R-MO) amendment. The Blunt amendment would allow health insurance plans to deny coverage for medical services that run counter to the plan sponsor's or employer's religious beliefs. It would also establish a private right of legal action for enforcement of the coverage exemptions. Motion agreed to 51-48; 3/1/2012.

**3. S 1925 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.**

**Act.** Bill that would renew for five years the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) a 1994 law, last reauthorized in 2005, that provides federal law enforcement agencies the tools and authority to combat a variety of crimes against women. It would include the following new provisions that are not in the House bill: a special category of temporary visas for immigrant women who have been victims of domestic violence, ban organizations that receive federal grants from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, provide new authorities to tribal courts for enforcing restraining orders, and help students on college campuses who are subject to sexual assaults and violence. Passed 68-31; 4/26/2012.

**4. S Con Res 112 House FY 2013 Budget Resolution**

**(The Ryan Plan)/Motion to Proceed.** Motion to proceed to the concurrent resolution that would limit discretionary appropriations (does not include entitlements) in FY2013 to \$1.028 trillion, \$19 billion below the target agreed to as part of the 2011 deal to raise the debt ceiling. Motion rejected 41-58; 5/16/2012.

**5. S 2343 Student Loans.** Bill that would extend for one year a

3.4% interest rate on certain federally subsidized, undergraduate student loans. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid offered a proposal to offset the cost by eliminating tax preference for S corporations, which pass their income, losses, deductions, and credits through to shareholders for federal tax purposes. Opponents said this amounted to a tax increase on small businesses. Rejected 51-43; 5/24/2012. (Under a bipartisan agreement, 60 votes were required for passage of the bill.)

**6. S 3220 Wage Discrimination/Closure.** Motion to invoke

closure (thus limiting debate) on the Reid (D-NV) motion to proceed to the bill that would add remedies and additional tools to enforce an existing law against paying women less than men for the same work. It would require that employers show that any pay disparity is job related and not based on gender. Motion rejected 52-47; 6/5/2012. Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke closure.

**7. S 3240 Farm Programs/SNAP Funding.** Gillibrand (D-NY) amendment that would strike the bill's proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, and replace it with an equal amount of cuts to subsidies for the federal crop insurance program over 10 years. Rejected 33-66; 6/19/2012.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>ALABAMA</b>							
Sessions	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Shelby	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<hr/>							
<b>ALASKA</b>							
Begich	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Murkowski	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
<hr/>							
<b>ARIZONA</b>							
Kyl	N	N	N	Y	NV	N	N
McCain	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
<hr/>							
<b>ARKANSAS</b>							
Boozman	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Pryor	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<hr/>							
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>							
Boxer	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Feinstein	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<hr/>							
<b>COLORADO</b>							
Bennet	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Udall	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<hr/>							
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>							
Blumenthal	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	Y	Y
Lieberman	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<hr/>							
<b>DELAWARE</b>							
Carper	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Coons	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

**FLORIDA**

Nelson	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Rubio	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N

**GEORGIA**

Chambliss	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Isakson	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N

**HAWAII**

Akaka	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Inouye	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N

**IDAHO**

Crapo	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Risch	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N

**ILLINOIS**

Durbin	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Kirk	NV						

**INDIANA**

Coats	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Lugar	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N

**IOWA**

Grassley	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Harkin	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N

**KANSAS**

Moran	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Roberts	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N

I 2 3 4 5 6 7

I 2 3 4 5 6 7

KENTUCKY							
<i>McConnell</i>	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Paul</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
LOUISIANA							
<i>Landrieu</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Vitter</i>	NV	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
MAINE							
<i>Collins</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
<i>Snowe</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	N	Y
MARYLAND							
<i>Cardin</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Mikulski</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
MASSACHUSETTS							
<i>Brown</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
<i>Kerry</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
MICHIGAN							
<i>Levin</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Stabenow</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
MINNESOTA							
<i>Franken</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Klobuchar</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
MISSISSIPPI							
<i>Cochran</i>	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Wicker</i>	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
MISSOURI							
<i>Blunt</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>McCaskill</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
MONTANA							
<i>Baucus</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Tester</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
NEBRASKA							
<i>Johanns</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Nelson</i>	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
NEVADA							
<i>Heller</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
<i>Reid</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
<i>Ayotte</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
<i>Shaheen</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
NEW JERSEY							
<i>Lautenberg</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Menendez</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
NEW MEXICO							
<i>Bingaman</i>	NV	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Udall</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
NEW YORK							
<i>Gillibrand</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Schumer</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
NORTH CAROLINA							
<i>Burr</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Hagan</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
NORTH DAKOTA							
<i>Conrad</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Hoeven</i>	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
OHIO							
<i>Brown</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Portman</i>	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
OKLAHOMA							
<i>Coburn</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Inhofe</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
OREGON							
<i>Merkley</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Wyden</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

PENNSYLVANIA							
<i>Casey</i>	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Toomey</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
RHODE ISLAND							
<i>Reed</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Whitehouse</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
SOUTH CAROLINA							
<i>DeMint</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Graham</i>	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
SOUTH DAKOTA							
<i>Johnson</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Thune</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
TENNESSEE							
<i>Alexander</i>	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
<i>Corker</i>	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
TEXAS							
<i>Cornyn</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Hutchison</i>	N	N	Y	Y	NV	N	N
UTAH							
<i>Hatch</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Lee</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
VERMONT							
<i>Leahy</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Sanders</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
VIRGINIA							
<i>Warner</i>	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Webb</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
WASHINGTON							
<i>Cantwell</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
<i>Murray</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
WEST VIRGINIA							
<i>Manchin</i>	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Rockefeller</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
WISCONSIN							
<i>Johnson</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Kohl</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
WYOMING							
<i>Barrasso</i>	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Enzi</i>	N	N	N	Y	NV	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

# U.S. House of Representatives

## DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE VOTES

- 1. HR 1173 Long-Term Care Program Repeal.** Bill that would repeal the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) program authorized as part of the 2010 health care overhaul. The program was designed to allow workers to pay into a fund that would provide a \$50 daily cash benefit for long-term care services. Passed 267-159; 2/1/2012. Placed on Senate Calendar.
- 2. HR 3408 Expanded Oil and Gas Production.** Bill that would open up a portion of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and production and expand lease sales to include areas of the coast of southern California, in the eastern and central Gulf of Mexico, the Virginia coastline and near Bristol Bay, Alaska. The bill also would provide for approval of the 1,700 mile Canadian tar sands Keystone XL Pipeline. As amended it would establish a trust fund for Gulf Coast restoration efforts. Passed 237-187; 2/16/2012. Motion to reconsider tabled.
- 3. HR 3630 Payroll Tax Relief Extension/Conference Report.** Conference report on the bill that would extend the 4.2% employee payroll tax rate through 2012. It also would renew long-term unemployment benefits into January 2013. The current Medicare reimbursement rate for physicians would be preserved through 2012, preventing a scheduled 27.4% payment cut. The cost of tax cuts will be offset by certain health care benefit reductions, increases in civilian federal employee contributions toward defined benefit pensions, and sale of FCC licenses for available radio frequencies. Adopted (thus sent to the Senate) 293-132; 2/17/2012. Signed by the President 2/22/2012.
- 4. H Con Res 112 FY 2013 Budget Resolution (The Ryan Plan).** Concurrent resolution that would limit discretionary appropriations (does not include entitlements) in FY2013 to \$1.028 trillion, \$19 billion below the target agreed to as part of the 2011 deal to raise the debt ceiling. Adopted 228-191; 3/29/2012. Motion for consideration in the Senate rejected 5/16/2012.
- 5. HR 4628 Student Loan Interest Rates.** Bill that would extend for one year — through June 30, 2013 — the 3.4% interest rate for federally subsidized undergraduate student loans. It would be offset by eliminating a fund established by the health care over-
- haul law that covers prevention and public health. Passed 215-195; 4/27/2012. Placed on Senate Calendar 5/8/2012.
- 6. HR 4133 U.S. Israel Relations.** Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would express the sense of Congress that the United States should assist in the defense of Israel, including providing Israel the military capabilities necessary to deter and defend itself against any threats. The bill also would extend US government guarantees of loans taken out by Israel until Sept. 30, 2015. Motion agreed to 411-2; 5/9/2012. Referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.
- 7. HR 4970 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.** Bill that would authorize \$600 million per year through FY 2017 to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Unlike the Senate which passed a more expansive version, the House rejected new legal authority for American Indians, omitted protections for gays and lesbians and stripped the requirement that colleges and universities report instances of date rape and stalking. Passed 222-205; 5/16/2012. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- 8. HR 3541 Sex-Selection Abortion Ban.** Franks (R-AZ) motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would impose fines or a maximum 5-year sentence, or both, on individuals who perform an abortion knowing the abortion is sought for sex selection. The same penalties would apply to anyone who transports a woman into the United States or across state lines to obtain a sex-selection abortion or who solicits or accepts payment for performing a sex-selection abortion. Motion rejected 246-168; 5/31/2012. A 2/3 third majority of those present and voting (276 in this case) is required for passage under suspension of the rules.
- 9. HR 4480 Domestic Energy Production.** Bill that would mandate an increase in oil and gas production equivalent to any release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It would require the Interior Department to ensure that at least 25 percent of eligible federal land is available for leasing each year and it would streamline the process for approving drilling permits. Passed 248-163; 6/21/2012. Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>ALABAMA</b>									
1	Bonner	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Ruby	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
3	Rogers	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Aderholt	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Brooks	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Bachus	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Sewell	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	NV
<b>ALASKA</b>									
a-1	Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>ARIZONA</b>									
1	Gosar	Y	Y	NV	Y	N	Y	N	Y
2	Franks	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
3	Quayle	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
4	Pastor	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
5	Schweikert	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
6	Flake	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
7	Grijalva	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
8	Barber								
<b>ARKANSAS</b>									
1	Crawford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Griffin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Womack	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Ross	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>									
1	Thompson	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	Herger	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Lungren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	McClintock	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
5	Matsui	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
6	Woolsey	N	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N
7	Miller, George	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
8	Pelosi	N	N	Y	NV	N	Y	N	N
9	Lee	N	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N
10	Garamendi	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	N	Y
11	McNerney	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
12	Speier	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	NV
13	Stark	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	N	N
14	Eshoo	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	N	N
15	Honda	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
16	Lofgren	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
17	Farr	N	N	N	N	NV	Y	N	N
18	Cardoza	N	N	N	N	NV	Y	N	N
19	Denham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Costa	N	Y	Y	N	NV	Y	N	Y
21	Nunes	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
22	McCarthy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
23	Capps	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
24	Gallegly	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
25	McKeon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26	Dreier	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
27	Sherman	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N







## 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](http://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.

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



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## ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE

This is Volume IX, Number 3 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 112th 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.