

VOLUME XII, NUMBER I | 115TH CONGRESS
JANUARY, 2017 - JUNE, 2018

Jewish Community Voter Guide *2017-2018*

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 foreign aid, reproductive rights, immigration, gun violence, the environment, and more.

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.

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



The Jewish Community Voter Guide is published by the JAC Education Foundation, P. O. Box 541, Highland Park, Illinois 60035.

For more information, email info@jaceducationfoundation.org. Contributions to the JAC Education Foundation are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes as a donation to an organization exempt under IRS code 501(c)(3).

ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE

This is Volume XII, Number I of the Jewish Community Voter Guide, published once 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 115th 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.

To download a copy of this voter guide, go to www.jacedfund.com.

DESCRIPTION OF SENATE VOTES

- 1) **HJ Res 40 - Nullifying the NCIS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.** A joint resolution that would nullify an Obama-era rule (National Instant Criminal History Background Check System - NICS) preventing those deemed too mentally ill or incapacitated from purchasing a firearm and requiring the Social Security Administration to report certain Social Security payments for mental health disabilities received by individuals in order to include that information in firearm background checks. Passed 57-43, February 15, 2017. Signed into law by the President on February 28, 2017.
- 2) **HJ Res 43 - Withholding Title X Funding for Facilities Providing Abortion Services.** Joint Resolution that would reverse an Obama-era rule that prevents states from withholding federal funding to facilities that perform abortions, including Planned Parenthood. Tied 50-50, March 30, 2017; Vice President Pence broke the tie with a vote in favor. Signed into law by President Trump on April 13, 2017.
- 3) **On the Nomination PN55: Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.** Confirmed 54-45, April 7, 2017.
- 4) **S Amendment 667 to HR 1628: American Health Care Act of 2017.** McConnell, R-KY, amendment that would strike all House text from the bill and replace it with the Senate's language instead. The Senate language, referred to as a Partial or "Skinny" repeal, would eliminate the penalties associated with the individual and employer mandates for health insurance and pause federal dollars from going to Planned Parenthood through Medicaid for one year, instead increasing funding to a community health care center program. If passed, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would have resulted in increasing the number of uninsured Americans by an estimated 16 million people. Rejected 49-51, July 28, 2017.
- 5) **S 2311 - Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act/Cloture.** Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed for the consideration of S 2311. This bill would make it a crime for any person to perform or attempt to perform an abortion if the probable post-fertilization age of the fetus is 20 weeks or more, subject to a fine, up to five years in prison, or both. The bill provides exceptions for abortion to save the life of the woman, or in cases of rape or incest. A physician who performs or attempts to perform an abortion under an exception must comply with specified requirements. A woman who undergoes a prohibited abortion may not be prosecuted for violating or conspiring to violate the provisions of this bill. Rejected 51-46 (Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture.) January 29, 2018.
- 6) **S Amendment 1955 to HR 2579: Broader Options for Americans Act/Cloture.** Coons, D-DE, and McCain, R-AZ, amendment to the Schumer, D-NY, amendment 1958 to HR 2579. The amendment would provide relief from removal and adjustment to individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States before reaching the age of 18 (also known as Dreamers or DACA recipients), to improve border security, and to foster United States engagement in Central America. Rejected 52-47 (Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture.), February 15, 2018.
- 7) **SJ Resolution 52 - Disapproving the Action of the FCC Relating to "Restoring Internet Freedom"** Reverses the Federal Communications Commission's decision to repeal the 2015 Open Internet Order, which prohibited internet service providers from blocking or slowing web traffic or providing paid internet fast lanes, also known as net neutrality. Passage of the bill would allow internet service providers to block or slow web traffic. Passed 52-47, May 16, 2018.

filibuster:

An attempt to block or delay Senate action on a bill or other matter. This parliamentary procedure extends debate over a proposed piece of legislation, allowing one or more members to delay or entirely prevent a vote on the proposal.

cloture:

A formal Senate procedure for breaking a filibuster. Cloture requires three-fifths of the Senate (60 members) vote for the procedure to pass. If passed, cloture places a time limit for debate on a bill, at the end of which the bill comes up for a vote. Additionally, a passed cloture vote overcomes a filibuster. If a cloture vote fails, the bill will not come up for a full vote in the Senate. A "no" vote can be seen as a vote opposing the bill.

United States Senate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ALABAMA							
Jones					N	Y	Y
Shelby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Strange	Y	Y	Y	Y			
ALASKA							
Murkowski	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
ARIZONA							
Flake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
McCain	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	NV	NV
ARKANSAS							
Boozman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Cotton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
CALIFORNIA							
Feinstein	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Harris	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
COLORADO							
Bennet	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Gardner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
CONNECTICUT							
Blumenthal	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Murphy	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
DELAWARE							
Carper	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Coons	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
FLORIDA							
Nelson	N	N	N	N	NV	Y	Y
Rubio	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
GEORGIA							
Isakson	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	N	N
Perdue	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
HAWAII							
Hirono	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Schatz	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
IDAHO							
Crapo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Risch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
ILLINOIS							
Duckworth	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Durbin	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
INDIANA							
Donnelly	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
IOWA							
Ernst	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Grassley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
KANSAS							
Moran	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Roberts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
KENTUCKY							
McConnell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Paul	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
LOUISIANA							
Cassidy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Kennedy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
MAINE							
Collins	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
King	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MARYLAND							
Cardin	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Van Hollen	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
MASSACHUSETTS							
Markey	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Warren	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
MICHIGAN							
Peters	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Stabenow	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
MINNESOTA							
Franken	N	N	N	N			
Klobuchar	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Smith					N	Y	Y
MISSISSIPPI							
Cochran	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Hyde-Smith							N
Wicker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
MISSOURI							
Blunt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
McCaskill	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
MONTANA							
Daines	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Tester	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
NEBRASKA							
Fischer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Sasse	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
NEVADA							
Cortez-Masto	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Heller	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Hassan	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Shaheen	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
NEW JERSEY							
Booker	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Menendez	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
NEW MEXICO							
Heinrich	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Udall	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
NEW YORK							
Gillibrand	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Schumer	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
NORTH CAROLINA							
Burr	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Tillis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
NORTH DAKOTA							
Heitkamp	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Hoeben	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
OHIO							
Brown	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Portman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
OKLAHOMA							
Inhofe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Lankford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
OREGON							
Merkley	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Wyden	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
PENNSYLVANIA							
Casey	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Toomey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
RHODE ISLAND							
Reed	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Whitehouse	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Graham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Scott	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Rounds	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Thune	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
TENNESSEE							
Alexander	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Corker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
TEXAS							
Cornyn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Cruz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
UTAH							
Hatch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Lee	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
VERMONT							
Leahy	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Sanders	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
VIRGINIA							
Kaine	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Warner	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
WASHINGTON							
Cantwell	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Murray	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
WEST VIRGINIA							
Capito	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Manchin	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
WISCONSIN							
Baldwin	N	N	N	N	NV	Y	Y
Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
WYOMING							
Barrasso	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Enzi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	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 7 - No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Full Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2017/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would make permanent the prohibition on the use of federal funds, including the budgetary funds of the District of Columbia, for abortion or health coverage that provides abortion (commonly known as the Hyde Amendment), excepting in cases of incest and rape, or the life of the mother is in danger. In addition, it would prohibit qualified health plans under the ACA from offering abortion coverage. Passage of the bill would also mean abortions may not be provided in a federal health care facility or by a federal employee. Passed, 238-183, January 24, 2017.
- 2) **HJ Res 40 - Disapproving the Rule to Implement Mental Health Provisions to Prevent the Purchase of Firearms Under NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.** Joint Resolution that would nullify an Obama-era rule preventing those deemed too mentally ill or incapacitated from purchasing a firearm. Removes the requirement for the Social Security Administration to report individuals receiving certain Social Security mental health disabilities so that the information could be used in firearm background checks. Passed 235-180, February 2, 2017.
- 3) **HR 1628 - American Health Care Act of 2017/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood under a process called “budget reconciliation” that would lower the necessary votes for Senate passage to 51 from 60. The bill would dismantle key parts of the Affordable Care Act, including restrictions on private insurance coverage of abortion care and disqualify Planned Parenthood from participating in federal healthcare programs for one year. It would also eliminate the Medicaid expansion provisions of the ACA and the mandatory coverage of Essential Health Benefits for qualified health insurance plans, including maternity care. Passed 217-213, May 4, 2017.
- 4) **HR 36 - Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. Exceptions would be provided only in cases where the woman’s life is in danger, or pregnancies that result from the rape of an adult woman who received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. Passed 237-189, October 3, 2017.
- 5) **HR 1698 - Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act/Passage.** Passage of a law that would state it is U.S. policy to prevent Iran from undertaking any activity related to nuclear-capable ballistic missiles. The bill would mandate the President to impose sanctions on foreign persons and entities involved with Iran’s ballistic missile program and those who provide or receive conventional weapons from Iran. Passed 423-2, October 26, 2017.
- 6) **HR 1 - Federal Income Tax Reform/Passage.** Passage of a law that would modify the U.S. tax code for businesses and individuals including: modify the individual income tax bracket levels, modify mortgage interest rate deductions, suspend the deduction of personal exemptions, and eliminate the individual mandate that requires most Americans to buy health insurance or pay a penalty under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Passed 227-205, November 16, 2017.
- 7) **HR 38 - Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017/Passage.** Passage of a law that would allow any person with a concealed carry permit from one state to carry their weapon in any other state. It would also allow anybody with a concealed carry permit to carry firearms in a concealed manner on any federal land, such as national parks or national monuments. Passed 231-198, December 6, 2017
- 8) **HR 2 - Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018/Passage.** Passage of a bill that would Amend and extend major programs for income support, food and nutrition, land conservation, trade promotion, rural development, research, forestry, horticulture, and other miscellaneous programs administered by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for five years. Makes major changes to SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as food stamps, including expanding work requirements and modifying eligibility rules. The bill would also repeal the Clean Water rule issued by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, protected and regulated under the so-called Clean Water Act. Passed 213-211, June 21, 2018.

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
ALABAMA																		
1	Byrne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		47	Lowenthal	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Roby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		48	Robrabacher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
3	Rogers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		49	Issa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
4	Aderholt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	50	Hunter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Brooks	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		51	Vargas	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
6	Palmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		52	Peters	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
7	Sewell	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		53	Davis	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
ALASKA																		
a-1	Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		COLORADO								
ARIZONA																		
1	O'Halleran	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N		1	DeGette	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	McSally	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		2	Polis	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
3	Grijalva	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		3	Tipton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Gosar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		4	Buck	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Biggs	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	5	Lamborn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Schweikert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		6	Coffman	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Gallego	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		7	Perlmutter	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
8	Franks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		CONNECTICUT								
8	Lesko								Y	1	Larson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
9	Sinema	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N		2	Courtney	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
ARKANSAS																		
1	Crawford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		3	DeLauro	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Hill	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		4	Himes	N	N	N	NV	Y	N	N
3	Womack	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		5	Esty	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
4	Westerman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		DELAWARE								
CALIFORNIA																		
1	LaMalfa	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		a-1	Blunt-Rochester	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Huffman	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		FLORIDA								
3	Garamendi	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		1	Gaetz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
4	McClintock	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		2	Dunn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Thompson	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N		3	Yoho	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Matsui	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		4	Rutherford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Bera	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		5	Lawson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
8	Cook	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		6	DeSantis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	McNerney	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		7	Murphy	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
10	Denham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		8	Posey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	DeSaulnier	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		9	Soto	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
12	Pelosi	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		10	Demings	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
13	Lee	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		11	Webster	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
14	Speier	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		12	Bilirakis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15	Swalwell	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		13	Crist	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
16	Costa	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	N		14	Castor	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
17	Khanna	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		15	Ross	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18	Eshoo	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		16	Buchanan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19	Lofgren	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		17	Rooney, T.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Panetta	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		18	Mast	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
21	Valadao	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		19	Rooney, F.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
22	Nunes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		20	Hastings	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N
23	McCarthy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		21	Frankel	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N
24	Carbajal	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		22	Deutch	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
25	Knight	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		23	Wasserman Shultz	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
26	Brownley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	NV		24	Wilson	N	N	N	N	NV	NV	N
27	Chu	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		25	Diaz-Balart	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
28	Schiff	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		26	Curbelo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
29	Cárdenas	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		27	Ros-Lehtinen	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
30	Sherman	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		GEORGIA								
31	Aguilar	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		1	Carter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
32	Napolitano	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		2	Bishop	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
33	Lieu	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	N		3	Ferguson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
34	Gomez					N	Y	N		4	Johnson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
35	Torres	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N		5	Lewis	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
36	Ruiz	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		6	Price	NV	NV					
37	Bass	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		6	Handel				Y	Y	Y	
38	Sanchez, L.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		7	Woodall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
39	Royce	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		8	Scott, A.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
40	Roybal-Allard	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		9	Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
41	Takano	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		10	Hice	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
42	Calvert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		11	Loudermilk	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	
43	Waters	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		12	Allen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
44	Barragan	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		13	Scott, D.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
45	Walters	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		14	Graves	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
46	Correa	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N		HAWAII								
IDAHO																		
1	Labrador	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		1	Hanabusa	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Simpson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		2	Gabbard	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	N

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
ILLINOIS									MICHIGAN									
1	Rush	NV	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	Bergman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Kelly	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	Huizenga	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Lipinski	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	3	Amash	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
4	Gutierrez	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	4	Moolenaar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Quigley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	5	Kildee	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
6	Roskam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6	Upton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
7	Davis, D.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	7	Walberg	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	Krishnamoorthi	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	8	Bishop	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Schakowsky	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	9	Levin	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
10	Schneider	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	10	Mitchell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Foster	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	11	Trott	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12	Bost	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12	Dingell	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
13	Davis, R.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	13	Conyers	N	N	N	N	Y	N	
14	Hultgren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	14	Lawrence	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
15	Shimkus	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	MINNESOTA								
16	Kinzinger	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	Walz	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
17	Bustos	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	Lewis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18	LaHood	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Paulsen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
INDIANA									4	McCollum	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
1	Visclosky	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	5	Ellison	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Walorski	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	Emmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Banks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7	Peterson	Y	NV	N	Y	Y	N	Y
4	Rokita	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	Nolan	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
5	Brooks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	MISSISSIPPI								
6	Messer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	Kelly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Carson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	Thompson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
8	Bucshon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Harper	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Hollingsworth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4	Palazzo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
IOWA									MISSOURI									
1	Blum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	Clay	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Loeb sack	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	Wagner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Luetkemeyer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	King	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4	Hartzler	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KANSAS									5	Cleaver	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
1	Marshall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	Graves	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Jenkins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7	Long	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
3	Yoder	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Estes			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	MONTANA								
KENTUCKY									a-1	Zinke	NV	NV						
1	Comer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	a-1	Gianforte			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Guthrie	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NEBRASKA								
3	Yarmuth	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	Fortenberry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Massie	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	2	Bacon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Rogers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
6	Barr	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NEVADA								
LOUISIANA									1	Titus	N	N	N	NV	Y	N	N	N
1	Scalise	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	Amodei	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Richmond	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3	Rosen	N	N	N	NV	Y	N	N
3	Higgins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4	Kihuen	N	N	N	NV	Y	N	N
4	Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NEW HAMPSHIRE								
5	Abraham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	Shea-Porter	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
6	Graves	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	Kuster	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
MAINE									NEW JERSEY									
1	Pingree	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	Norcross	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
2	Poliquin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	LoBiondo	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
MARYLAND									3	MacArthur	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1	Harris	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4	Smith	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
2	Ruppersberger	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	5	Gottheimer	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
3	Sarbanes	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	6	Pallone	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
4	Brown	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	7	Lance	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	
5	Hoyer	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	8	Sires	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
6	Delaney	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	9	Pascrell	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
7	Cummings	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	10	Payne, Jr.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
8	Raskin	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	11	Frelinghuysen	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
MASSACHUSETTS									12	Watson Coleman	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
1	Neal	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	NEW MEXICO								
2	McGovern	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	Lujan Grisham	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
3	Tsongas	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	Pearce	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Kennedy	N	N	N	N	Y	N	NV	N	3	Lujan	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
5	Clark	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N									
6	Moulton	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N									
7	Capuano	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N									
8	Lynch	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N									
9	Keating	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N									

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NEW YORK									PENNSYLVANIA								
1 Zeldin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	1 Brady	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
2 King	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	2 Evans	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
3 Suozzi	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3 Kelly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4 Rice	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	4 Perry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV
5 Meeks	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	5 Thompson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6 Meng	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	6 Costello	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
7 Velázquez	N	NV	N	N	Y	N	N	N	7 Meehan	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	
8 Jeffries	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	NV	8 Fitzpatrick	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
9 Clarke	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	9 Shuster	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10 Nadler	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	10 Marino	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11 Donovan	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	11 Barletta	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12 Maloney, C.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	12 Rothfus	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
13 Espaillat	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	13 Boyle	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
14 Crowley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	14 Doyle	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
15 Serrano	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	15 Dent	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
16 Engel	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	16 Smucker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
17 Lowey	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	17 Cartwright	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
18 Maloney, S.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	18 Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y				
19 Faso	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	18 Lamb								N
20 Tonko	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	RHODE ISLAND								
21 Stefanik	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	1 Cicilline	N	N	N	N	NV	N	N	N
22 Tenney	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2 Langevin	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
23 Reed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SOUTH CAROLINA								
24 Katko	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	1 Sanford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
25 Slaughter	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2 Wilson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26 Higgins	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3 Duncan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
27 Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4 Gowdy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NORTH CAROLINA									5 Mulvaney	NV	NV						
1 Butterfield	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	5 Norman			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Holding	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 Clyburn	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
3 Jones	NV	NV	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	7 Rice	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4 Price	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	SOUTH DAKOTA								
5 Foxx	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	a-1 Noem	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6 Walker	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TENNESSEE								
7 Rouzer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1 Roe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8 Hudson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2 Duncan, Jr.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
9 Pittenger	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3 Fleischmann	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10 McHenry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4 Desjarlais	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11 Meadows	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 Cooper	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
12 Adams	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	6 Black	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13 Budd	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 Blackburn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NORTH DAKOTA									8 Kustoff	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
a-1 Cramer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9 Cohen	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
OHIO									TEXAS								
1 Chabot	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1 Gohmert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
2 Wenstrup	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2 Poe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Beatty	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3 Johnson, S.	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
4 Jordan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4 Ratcliffe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 Latta	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 Hensarling	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6 Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 Barton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7 Gibbs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 Culberson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8 Davidson	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 Brady	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9 Kaptur	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	9 Green, A.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
10 Turner	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10 McCaul	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11 Fudge	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	11 Conaway	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12 Tiberi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12 Granger	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13 Ryan	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	13 Thornberry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
14 Joyce	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	14 Weber	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15 Stivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	15 Gonzalez	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
16 Renacci	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	16 O'Rourke	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
OKLAHOMA									17 Flores	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1 Bridenstine	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	Y	NV	Y	18 Jackson Lee	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
2 Mullin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	19 Arrington	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Lucas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	20 Castro	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
4 Cole	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	21 Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 Russell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	22 Olson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
OREGON									23 Hurd	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1 Bonamici	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	24 Marchant	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Walden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	25 Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Blumenauer	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	26 Burgess	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4 Defazio	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	27 Farenthold	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 Schrader	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	28 Cuellar	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
									29 Green, G.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N

U.S. House of Representatives

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30 Johnson, E.B.	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
31 Carter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
32 Sessions	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
33 Veasy	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
34 Vela	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
35 Doggett	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
36 Babin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
UTAH								
1 Bishop	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Stewart	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Chaffetz	Y	Y	Y					
3 Curtis					Y	Y	Y	Y
4 Love	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VERMONT								
a-1 Welch	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
VIRGINIA								
1 Wittman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Taylor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Scott	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
4 McEachin	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
5 Garrett	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
6 Goodlatte	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7 Brat	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8 Beyer	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
9 Griffith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10 Comstock	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11 Connolly	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
WASHINGTON								
1 DelBene	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
2 Larsen	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
3 Herrera Beutler	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4 Newhouse	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 McMorris Rodgers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6 Kilmer	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
7 Jayapal	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
8 Reichert	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9 Smith	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
10 Heck	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
WEST VIRGINIA								
1 McKinley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Mooney	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Jenkins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WISCONSIN								
1 Ryan			Y			Y	Y	Y
2 Pocan	N	N	N	N	Y	NV	NV	N
3 Kind	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
4 Moore	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
5 Sensenbrenner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6 Grotham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7 Duffy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8 Gallagher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WYOMING								
a-1 Cheney	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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)

P = No vote was cast, but a measure was made to note the Congressman was "Present"

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

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

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 provisions).

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.



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