

VOLUME X, NUMBER 3 113TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION
JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2014

Jewish Community Voter Guide 2014

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, call (847) 433-0944. 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 X, Number 3 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 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.

DESCRIPTION OF SENATE VOTES

- 1) **HR 3547 - Fiscal 2014 Omnibus Appropriation/Motion to Concur.** Reid, D-NV, motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide about \$1.1 trillion in discretionary appropriations in fiscal 2014 spending bills, including: \$20.9 billion for Agriculture; \$51.6 billion for Commerce-Justice-Science, \$572 billion for Defense, including \$85.2 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations associated with the war in Afghanistan and other counterterrorism operations; \$34.1 billion for Energy-Water; \$21.9 billion for Financial Services; \$39.3 billion for Homeland Security; \$30.1 billion for Interior-Environment; \$156.8 billion for Labor-HHS-Education; \$4.3 billion for the Legislative Branch; \$73 billion for Military Construction-VA; \$49 billion for State-Foreign Affairs; and \$50.9 billion for Transportation-HUD. Motion agreed to 72-26, January 16, 2014.
- 2) **S 540 - Debt Limit Extension/Motion to Concur.** Motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would suspend the current statutory limit on federal borrowing authority for one year, through March 15, 2015. Under the bill, a new statutory debt limit would automatically be re-established on March 16, 2015 and set at increased levels to reflect any additional federal borrowing that had occurred in order to make payments up to that point on government obligations. Motion agreed to 55-43, February 12, 2014. President signed into law Feb. 15, 2014.
- 3) **S 1917 - Sexual Assault Protections/Passage.** Passage of the bill to expand provisions in the 2014 fiscal defense authorization law to allow special counsels to offer advise on prosecutorial options for victims of sexual assault in the military. Evaluations to determine whether commanding officers establish a climate that properly reports and manages sexual assault allegations would be required. It would also prohibit service members from introducing records of good conduct as evidence of innocence, unless directly relevant to the defendants' charges. It would also establish a process for victims subsequently discharged from the military to confidentially challenge the terms of their discharge. Passed 97-0, March 10, 2014.
- 4) **S 2223. Minimum Wage Increase/Cloture.** Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) and proceed with the bill that would increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 by 2016. It would gradually increase the minimum cash wage for workers who receive tips until it equals 70 percent of the federal minimum wage for other workers. Motion rejected 54-42. (Three-fifths of the total Senate — 60 — is required to invoke cloture for legislation.) April 30, 2014.
- 5) **S 2432 - Student Loan Refinancing/Cloture.** Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) and proceed with the bill that would allow eligible borrowers who took out student loans prior to July 1, 2013, to refinance those loans to rates offered to new borrowers. Cost of the bill would be offset by increasing taxes on those who earn more than \$1 million a year. Motion rejected 56-38. (Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture for legislation.) June 11, 2014.
- 6) **S 2363 - Sporting and Recreation on Federal Land/Cloture.** Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the bill that would provide additional recreational access to certain public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. The bill would also exclude ammunitions and fish tackle from EPA regulations, ease a ban on importing polar bear remains and reauthorize several conservation measures, including a grant program for wetland conservation projects for birds and other wildlife. Motion rejected 41-56. (Three fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture on legislation.) July 10, 2014.
- 7) **S 2578 - Contraception Coverage/Cloture.** Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) and proceed with the bill, known as the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act of 2014, that would prohibit employers from refusing to cover contraception, or any other type of health coverage guaranteed under federal law, for their employees and dependents. Includes language to ensure that exemptions for places of worship and religiously-affiliated nonprofit organizations remain in place. Motion rejected 56-43. (Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture for legislation.) July 16, 2014.
- 8) **S 2199 - Equal Pay/Cloture.** Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the bill that would require employers to demonstrate that wage gaps between men and women with similar qualifications and in similar jobs have a business justification. It would prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information and authorize the Labor Secretary to seek additional compensatory or punitive damages in a sex discrimination action. The bill would also require the Labor Department to provide training and collect wage information. Motion rejected 52-40, September 15, 2014. (Three-fifths of the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture for legislation.) A "yea" vote was in support of the President's position.
- 9) **S 2280 - Keystone XL Pipeline/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would immediately allow the construction, connection, operation and maintenance of the pipeline and cross-border facilities known as the Keystone XL pipeline. It would also consider the January 2014 State Department environmental impact statement sufficient to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. It would grant the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia exclusive jurisdiction regarding legal disputes over the pipeline or the constitutionality of the bill. Motion rejected 59-41. (By unanimous consent, the Senate agreed to raise the majority requirement for passage of the bill to 60 votes. A "nay" vote was in support of the president's position.) November 18, 2014.

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 against the bill.

United States Senate

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ALABAMA										MASSACHUSETTS									
<i>Sessions</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Markey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Shelby</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Warren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
ALASKA										MICHIGAN									
<i>Begich</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Levin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>Murkowski</i>	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Stabenow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
ARIZONA										MINNESOTA									
<i>Flake</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Franken	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>McCain</i>	N	N	NV	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Klobuchar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
ARKANSAS										MISSISSIPPI									
<i>Boozman</i>	Y	N	Y	NV	Y	N	N	N	Y	<i>Cochran</i>	Y	N	Y	NV	NV	N	N	N	Y
<i>Pryor</i>	Y	Y	Y	NV	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Wicker</i>	Y	N	Y	NV	N	N	N	N	Y
CALIFORNIA										MISSOURI									
<i>Boxer</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	<i>Blunt</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	NV	Y
<i>Feinstein</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	McCaskill	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y
COLORADO										MONTANA									
<i>Bennet</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Baucus *	Y								
<i>Udall</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Walsh *		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CONNECTICUT										NEBRASKA									
<i>Blumenthal</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	<i>Fisher</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
<i>Murphy</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	<i>Johanns</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
DELAWARE										NEVADA									
<i>Carper</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<i>Heller</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
<i>Coons</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Reid	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
FLORIDA										NEW HAMPSHIRE									
<i>Nelson</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	<i>Ayotte</i>	Y	N	Y	N	NV	N	N	N	Y
<i>Rubio</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Shaheen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
GEORGIA										NEW JERSEY									
<i>Chambliss</i>	NV	NV	Y	N	N	N	N	NV	Y	Booker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>Isakson</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Menendez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
HAWAII										NEW MEXICO									
<i>Hirono</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Heinrich	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>Schatz</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	NV	Y	N	Udall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
IDAHO										NEW YORK									
<i>Crapo</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Gillibrand	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>Risch</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Schumer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
ILLINOIS										NORTH CAROLINA									
<i>Durbin</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	<i>Burr</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
<i>Kirk</i>	Y	N	NV	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Hagan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
INDIANA										NORTH DAKOTA									
<i>Coats</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Heitkamp	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Donnelly</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	<i>Hoeven</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
IOWA										OHIO									
<i>Grassley</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Brown	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>Harkin</i>	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	N	Portman	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
KANSAS										OKLAHOMA									
<i>Moran</i>	Y	N	Y	N	NV	N	N	NV	Y	<i>Coburn</i>	NV	NV	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
<i>Roberts</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	NV	Y	<i>Inhofe</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
KENTUCKY										OREGON									
<i>McConnell</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Merkley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<i>Paul</i>	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Wyden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
LOUISIANA										PENNSYLVANIA									
<i>Landrieu</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Casey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Vitter</i>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Toomey	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
MAINE										RHODE ISLAND									
<i>Collins</i>	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Reed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
<i>King</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Whitehouse	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
MARYLAND										SOUTH CAROLINA									
<i>Cardin</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	N	<i>Graham</i>	Y	N	Y	N	NV	N	N	N	Y
<i>Mikulski</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	N	<i>Scott</i>	N	N	Y	N	NV	N	N	N	Y

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SOUTH DAKOTA									
Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Thune	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
TENNESSEE									
Alexander	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Corker	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
TEXAS									
Cornyn	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Cruz	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
UTAH									
Hatch	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	NV	Y
Lee	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
VERMONT									
Leahy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Sanders	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
VIRGINIA									
Kaine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Warner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WASHINGTON									
Cantwell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Murray	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
WEST VIRGINIA									
Manchin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rockefeller	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
WISCONSIN									
Baldwin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Johnson	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
WYOMING									
Barrasso	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	NV	Y
Enzi	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	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)

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 - Federal Abortion Funding/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would permanently prohibit the use of federal funds, facilities or staff to provide abortion coverage and services, except in cases of rape or incest and for saving the life of the mother. The District of Columbia also would be prohibited from using local funds for such services and coverage. Passed 227-188, January 28, 2014 .
- 2) **HR 3590 - Sporting and Recreation on Federal Land/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would open Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service Lands for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting. It would limit the EPA's authority to regulate hunting equipment for toxic substances, increase available funding for public land shooting ranges and allow firearms on Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas. Passed 268-154, February 5, 2014.
- 3) **HR 938 - U.S.-Israel Cooperation/Passage.** Royce (R-CA) motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill directing the President to report to Congress on efforts to bolster cooperation between the United States and Israel on security issues, including joint weapons development initiatives, training exercises, missile defense systems, energy development, intelligence gathering and cyber warfare. Motion agreed to 410-1, March 5, 2014 .
- 4) **HR 10 - Charter School Program Expansion/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would require the Education Secretary to consolidate the federal Charter Schools Program, which gives grants to states to open charter schools, and the Charter School Credit Enhancement Program, which assists schools in acquiring better credit terms for facilities, including acquisition and renovation, into one program; the program would further direct a certain percentage of funds into national charter school management activities. The bill would authorize \$300 million annually for the program from fiscal 2015 through fiscal 2020. Passed 360-45, May 9, 2014.
- 5) **H. Amdt. 704 - Funding Increase for National Criminal Background Checks.** Thompson (D-CA) amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015 that would increase funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) system by \$19.5 million and reduce funding for Departmental Management by \$1 million; Justice Information Sharing Technology by \$3 million, Building and Facilities by \$5.5 million and Agency Operation and Awards Management by \$10 million. Passed 260-145, May 29, 2014.
- 6) **HR 4660 - Fiscal 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations/Recommit.** Moore (D-WI) motion to include an amendment that would increase the following funds by \$1 million each: funds provided by the bill for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution programs, grants to combat violence against women, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance and grants to address backlogs of sexual assault kits. It would increase, by \$3 million each, funds provided in the bill for Community Oriented Policing Services and for hiring under this program. Rejected in the Committee of the Whole 185-220, May 30, 2014.
- 7) **H. Res. 676 - Litigation Against President/Adoption.** Adoption of the resolution that would authorize the Speaker of the House to file a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of the House against the president and other administration officials for failing "to act in a manner consistent with that officials' duties under the Constitution and laws of the United States" to implement provisions of the 2010 health care overhaul or related laws. Adopted 225-201, July 30, 2014.
- 8) **HJ Res. 76 - Iron Dome/Motion to Concur.** Rogers (R-KY) motion to concur with the Senate amendments to the joint resolution that would appropriate \$225 million in emergency funds for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. Motion agreed to 395-8, August 1, 2014. Signed into law by President 8/4/2014.
- 9) **HR 5682 - Keystone XL Pipeline/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would immediately allow the construction, connection, operation and maintenance of the pipeline and cross-border facilities known as the Keystone XL pipeline. It would also consider the January 2014 State Department environmental impact statement sufficient to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. It would grant the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia exclusive jurisdiction regarding legal disputes over the pipeline or the constitutionality of the bill. Motion agreed to 252-161, November 14, 2014. (A "nay" was a vote in support of the President's position.).
- 10) **HR 5759 - Executive Action on Immigration/Passage.** Passage of the bill that would prohibit the executive branch from exempting or deferring from deportation any immigrants considered to be unlawfully present in the United States. It also would prohibit the administration from treating those immigrants as if they were lawfully present or had lawful immigration status. It would designate "null and void and without legal effect," any action taken by the executive branch to circumvent the measure. Motion agreed to 219-197, December 4, 2014.

U.S. House of Representatives

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

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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