

## Congress by the Numbers

FAQs

## 112th Congress, 2nd Session

### CongressByTheNumbers.com

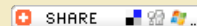
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"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."  
 -- Lord Acton

"Crony Capitalism"  
 (video explanation)

"Nothing breeds vice like an attempt to promote virtue by force."  
 -- Moman Pruiett (1927)



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### Current Party Numbers: 112th Congress, 2nd Session

	House	Senate
Democrats	191	53
Independents	0	2
Republicans	241	47
Vacancies	3	

Sources: [Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives](#) and [Wikipedia](#).

See also

- [“Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since 1945,”](#) CRS Report R42365, February 17, 2012 (41-page PDF ↗)
- [“Membership of the 112th Congress: A Profile,”](#) CRS Report for Congress R41647, March 20, 2012 (11-page PDF ↗)
- [“Membership of the 111th Congress: A Profile,”](#) CRS Report R40086, December 27, 2010 (10-page PDF ↗)
- [“Membership of the 110th Congress: A Profile,”](#) CRS Report RS22555, September 3, 2008 (6-page PDF ↗)

For a table showing party control of the 80th through the 112th Congresses, see the [Congressional Deskbook](#), § 5.51.

But wait! There's more!

- [Party Divisions of the House of Representatives \(1789 to Present\)](#) - from the Clerk of the House
- [Party Division in the Senate, 1789-Present](#) – from the Senate Historical Office
- [Charles Stewart’s Congressional Data Page](#) – from Charles Stewart, MIT

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## Congress by the Numbers

		2012 <a href="#">PDF</a> 112-2 (through June 30, 2012)	2011 <a href="#">PDF</a> 112- 1	2010 <a href="#">PDF</a> 111- 2	2009 <a href="#">PDF</a> 111-1	2008 <a href="#">PDF</a> 110-2	2007 <a href="#">PDF</a> 110-1	2006 <a href="#">PDF</a> 109- 2	2005 <a href="#">PDF</a> 109- 1	2004 <a href="#">PDF</a> 108- 2	2003 <a href="#">PDF</a> 108- 1	2002 <a href="#">PDF</a> 107- 2
Days in Session	Senate	84	170	158	191	184	190	138	159	133	167	149
	House	85	175	127	159	118	164	101	140	110	133	123
Time in Session (hours, rounded)	Senate	541	1102	1075	1421	989	1376	1028	1222	1032	1454	1043
	House	452	993	879	1247	890	1478	850	1067	879	1015	772
Average Length Daily Session (hours)	Senate	6.4	6.5	6.8	7.4	5.4	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.7	7
	House	5.3	5.7	6.9	7.8	7.5	9.0	8.4	7.6	8.0	7.6	6.3
Bills/Resolutions Introduced	Senate	1530	2447	1506	3380	1590	3033	2302	2616	1318	2398	1558
	House	2580	4468	3098	5691	3225	6194	2451	5703	2338	4616	2711
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4110</b>	<b>6915</b>	<b>4604</b>	<b>9071</b>	<b>4815</b>	<b>9227</b>	<b>4753</b>	<b>8321</b>	<b>3656</b>	<b>7014</b>	<b>4269</b>
Public Laws Enacted	Number	50	80	258	125	278	138	248	169	300	198	241
	% of total Introduced	1.22	1.16	5.6	1.38	5.8	1.5	5.2	2.03	8.21	2.82	5.65
Recorded Votes	Senate	172	235	299	397	215	442	279	366	216	459	253
	House <sup>1</sup>	449	945	660	987	688	1186	541	671	544	677	484
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>739</b>
Vetoes		0	0	1	0	4	5	1	0	0	0	0
	Overridden			0		3	1	0				

Source: [Resumes of Congressional Activity](#)

<sup>1</sup> Includes quorum calls

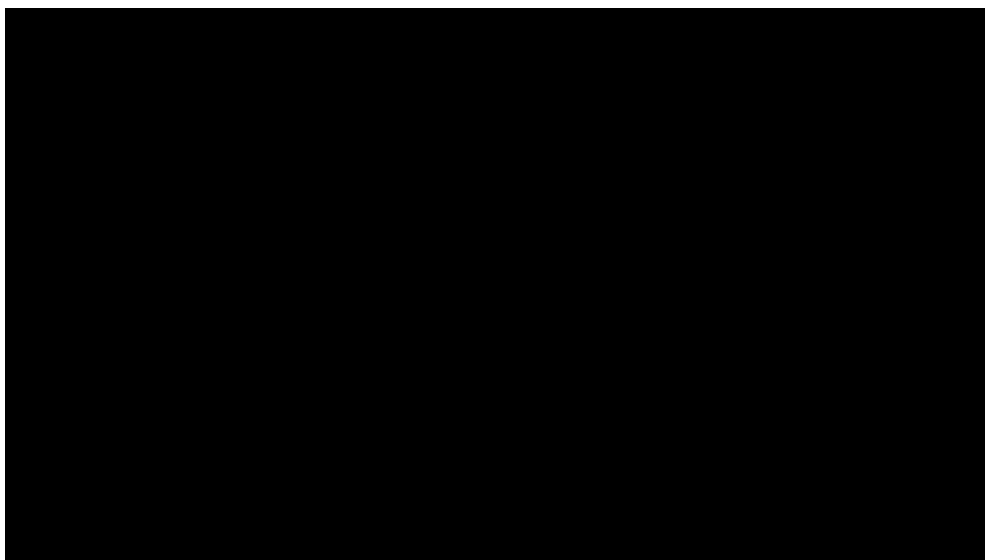
<sup>2</sup> Includes pocket vetoes

<sup>3</sup> Does not include line-item vetoes

See also

- ["On legislative volume,"](#) by Matt Glassman, October 12, 2011. Chart "that plots the number of public laws passed by October 1 of the first session of Congress vs. the number of laws passed during the remaining 15 months of the Congress. It plots the past 19 Congresses (93rd-111th) and a predicted value for the 112th (labeled in purple)."
- [20-Year Comparison of Senate Legislative Activity](#) – from the Senate (1-page PDF)

A summary of the Resumes of Congressional Activity from 1995 – 2004 appeared in Appendix 8 of the [Congressional Deskbook 2005-2007](#), and is [available here as an Excel spreadsheet](#).



## Differences between the House and the Senate At-a-Glance

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[James Madison, Father of the Constitution \(1751-1836\)](#)

[Legislative Process Flowchart](#)

[Pay and Perquisites of Members of Congress](#)

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## DC Weather

Cloudy

**91°F**

Fri	Sat	Sun
90/72	82/72	88/75

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- Weather in DC

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House	Senate
Larger - 435 members	Smaller - 100 members
Districts based on population	Two Senators from each state
Shorter term - 2 years	Longer term - 6 years
All stand for election every 2 years	6 year terms are staggered, 1/3 stand for election every 2 years - "continuing body"
At least 25 years of age when seated	At least 30 years of age when seated
Originates revenue legislation	Executive business (Treaties by 2/3, nominations)
Four calendars (Union, House, Private, and Discharge)	Two calendars (Legislative and Executive)
Less procedural flexibility / more restraints	More procedural flexibility / fewer restraints
Rules adopted each Congress (every 2 years)	Rules continuously in effect
Stronger Leadership - power less evenly distributed	Weaker Leadership - power more evenly distributed
Role of Rules Committee and special rules to govern floor consideration	Unanimous consent and complex unanimous consent time agreements to govern floor consideration
Scheduling by Speaker and majority-party leadership, with limited consultation among members	Scheduling by majority-party leadership, with broad consultation among all members
Germaneness of amendments generally required	Germaneness of amendments rarely required
Presiding officer has considerable discretion in recognition; rulings rarely challenged	Presiding officer has little discretion in recognition; rulings frequently challenged
Debate always restricted	Debate rarely restricted
Debate-ending motions by majority vote (218 representatives)	Cloture invoked by three-fifths vote (60 senators)
Quorum calls permitted in connection with record votes	Quorum calls permitted almost any time and used for constructive delay
Narrower constituency - House District	Larger constituency - entire state
Elections generally less competitive	Elections generally more competitive
Specialists	Generalists
Less reliant on staff	More reliant on staff
Less media coverage	More media coverage
More partisan	Less partisan
Adjourns at end of day	Recesses at end of most days
<b>Salary:</b> 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012: \$174,000 2008: \$169,300 2006 and 2007: \$165,200 (2005: \$162,100) For more information, see <a href="#">Pay and Perquisites of Members of Congress</a>	<b>Salary:</b> 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012: \$174,000 2008: \$169,300 2006 and 2007: \$165,200 (2005: \$162,100) For more information, see <a href="#">Pay and Perquisites of Members of Congress</a>

- Source: [Congressional Deskbook](#), § 4.10, Pay and Allowances of Members
- [Executive Order 13454: "Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay,"](#) Federal Register, Vol. 73 No. 5, page

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 OIRA  
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 Political Wire  
 PolitiFact – Strike Three  
 Popehat  
 Prints & Photographs Online Catalog – Library of Congress

1486, January 8, 2008 (14-page PDF [↗](#))

- [Executive Order 13525: "Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay,"](#) Federal Register, Vol. 74 No. 249, page 69231, December 23, 2009 (12-page PDF [↗](#))
- [Executive Order 13561: "Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay,"](#) Federal Register, Vol. 75 No. 249, page 81817, December 29, 2010 (14-page PDF [↗](#))
- [Executive Order 13594, signed December 19, 2011: "Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay,"](#) Federal Register, Vol. 76 No. 247, page 80191, December 23, 2011 (FR Doc No: 2011-33087) (13-page PDF [↗](#))

### House and Joint Committee Ratios 112th Congress, 1st Session (Congressional Deskbook, § 5.81)

Committee	Republicans	Democrats
<a href="#">Agriculture</a>	26	20
<a href="#">Appropriations</a>	29	21
<a href="#">Armed Services</a>	35	27
<a href="#">Budget</a>	22	16
<a href="#">Education and Workforce</a>	23	17
<a href="#">Energy and Commerce</a>	31	23
<a href="#">Ethics</a>	5	5
<a href="#">Financial Services</a>	34	27
<a href="#">Foreign Affairs</a>	26	20
<a href="#">Homeland Security</a>	19	14
<a href="#">House Administration</a>	6	3
<a href="#">Intelligence, Permanent Select</a>	12	8
<a href="#">Judiciary</a>	23	16
<a href="#">Natural Resources</a>	27	21
<a href="#">Oversight &amp; Government Reform</a>	23	17
<a href="#">Rules</a>	9	4
<a href="#">Science, Space and Technology</a>	23	17
<a href="#">Small Business</a>	15	11
<a href="#">Transportation and Infrastructure</a>	33	26
<a href="#">Veterans' Affairs</a>	15	11
<a href="#">Ways and Means</a>	22	15

### Joint Committee Ratios

Joint Committee	House		Senate	
	Republicans	Democrats	Democrats	Republicans
<a href="#">Economic</a>	6	4	6	4
<a href="#">Library</a>		2	3	2
<a href="#">Printing</a>		2	3	2
<a href="#">Taxation</a>		2	3	2

### Senate Committee Ratios 112th Congress, 1st Session (Congressional Deskbook, § 5.82)

Committee	Democrats	Republicans
<a href="#">Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry</a>	11	10
<a href="#">Appropriations</a>	16	14

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Armed Services	14	12
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	12	10
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Energy and Natural Resources	12	10
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Foreign Relations	10	9
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	12	10
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs	9	8
Judiciary	10	8
Rules and Administration	10	8
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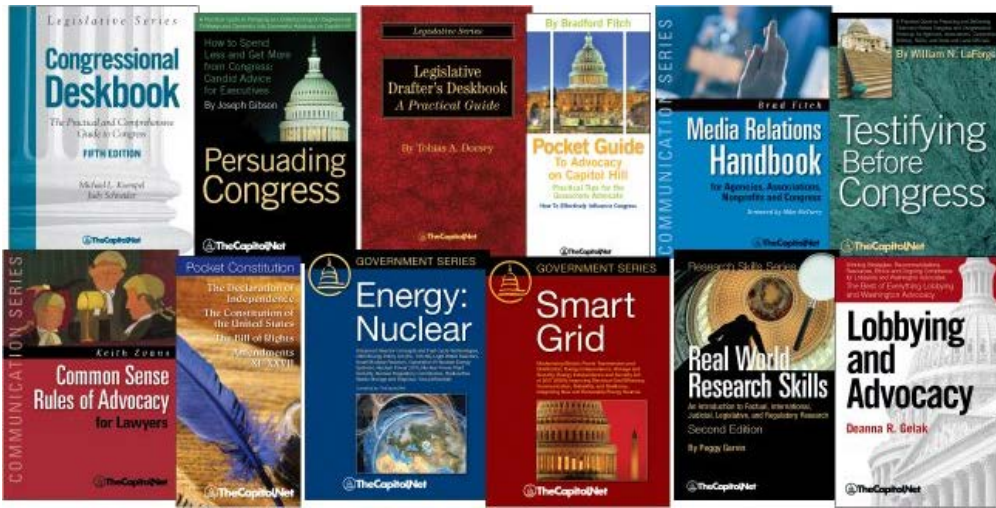
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