

# CRS Report for Congress

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## **Congressional Roll Call and Other Record Votes: First Congress Through 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 Through 2004**

**Updated March 3, 2005**

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# Congressional Roll Call and Other Record Votes: First Congress Through 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 Through 2004

## Summary

This compilation provides information on roll call and other record votes taken in the House of Representatives and Senate from the first Congress through the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 through 2004.

**Table 1** provides data for the House, the Senate, and both chambers together. Data provided include total record votes taken during each Congress, and the cumulative total record votes taken from the first Congress through the end of each subsequent Congress. The data for each Congress are also broken down by session, from the 80<sup>th</sup> Congress through the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1947 through 2004.

Figures 1 through 3 display the number of record votes in each chamber for each session from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress through 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1971 through 2004. They begin with 1971, the first year for which the House authorized record votes in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970.

In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, there were 1,218 record votes in the House of Representatives and 675 record votes in the Senate. From 1789 through 2004, there were 92,206 such votes — 46,017 votes in the House, and 46,189 votes in the Senate.

This report will be updated following the conclusion of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, first session.

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# Congressional Roll Call and Other Record Votes: First Congress Through 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 Through 2004

## Roll Call and Record Votes

This compilation provides information on record votes taken in the House of Representatives and Senate from the first Congress through the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 through 2004. For purposes of this compilation, a “record vote” is defined as any vote for which public record is made of the votes cast by individual Members.

In the Senate, all record votes are taken by a call of the roll,<sup>1</sup> in which Members state their preference to a clerk. In the House, record votes are normally taken by electronic device, with Members inserting voting cards into a machine and pressing a button to record their preference. Before this system was installed in 1972 (and since, when the system has been unavailable), clerks recorded Members’ votes on the basis of the call of the roll, similarly to the Senate.

**Table 1** provides data on the record votes of the House and Senate, and both chambers together, from the first Congress through the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 through 2004. It gives both the total number in, and the cumulative total through, each Congress. For example, in the first Congress (1789 through 1790), there were 109 votes in the House and 100 in the Senate. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, there were 1,218 record votes in the House of Representatives and 675 record votes in the Senate. From 1789 through 2004, there were 92,206 such votes — 46,017 votes in the House, and 46,189 votes in the Senate.

Following **Table 1**, three graphs display data on record votes in each chamber for each session of Congress from the 92<sup>nd</sup> through 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1971 through 2004. They begin with 1971, the first year for which the House authorized record votes in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970. The first graph shows the total number of record votes for each Congress.

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<sup>1</sup> “A roll call is a call of the roll to determine whether a quorum is present, to establish a quorum, or to vote on a question.” Walter Kravitz, *Congressional Quarterly’s American Congressional Dictionary*, Second Edition (Washington: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1997), p. 229. This report is concerned only with record votes and not voice, division, and unrecorded teller votes. See CQ’s *American Congressional Dictionary* for the definitions of the following terms relating to voting: automatic roll call, casting vote, cloture, cluster voting, constitutional votes, division vote, electronic voting, ghost voting, majority vote, proxy voting, Randolph rule, recapitulation of a vote, reconsideration of a vote, recorded vote, recorded vote by clerks, roll call, Speaker’s vote, teller vote, tie vote, voice vote, and yeas and nays.

The second and third graphs show, for the House and Senate respectively, the total number of record votes for each session of Congress.

For the 80<sup>th</sup> Congress through the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1947 through 2004, the period usually designated the “modern Congress,” the table also gives the total number of record votes in each chamber during each session of Congress. These data are not readily available for earlier Congresses.<sup>2</sup> Thus, corresponding cells of the table for Congresses before the 80<sup>th</sup> Congress carry the notation “*na.*”

For the House from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress through the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1971 through 2004, the table also breaks down the record votes during each session into roll call votes (yea and nay votes) and recorded votes. For the earlier years, in which this distinction was not applicable, corresponding cells of the table carry the notation “*n/a.*”

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<sup>2</sup> In addition, in some of those earlier Congresses, three and occasionally even four sessions were held.

Table 1. Record Votes in Congress, First Congress Through 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1789 Through 2004

| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                    |                  | Senate                  |                         |                    |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | All Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                    |                  |                |                  |
| 1              | 1789-1790 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 109                | 109              | na                      | na                      | 100                | 100              | 209            | 209              |
| 2              | 1791-1792 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 102                | 211              | na                      | na                      | 52                 | 152              | 154            | 363              |
| 3              | 1793-1794 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 69                 | 280              | na                      | na                      | 79                 | 231              | 148            | 511              |
| 4              | 1795-1796 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 83                 | 363              | na                      | na                      | 86                 | 317              | 169            | 680              |
| 5              | 1797-1798 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 155                | 518              | na                      | na                      | 202                | 519              | 357            | 1,037            |
| 6              | 1799-1800 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 96                 | 614              | na                      | na                      | 120                | 639              | 216            | 1,253            |
| 7              | 1801-1802 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 141                | 755              | na                      | na                      | 88                 | 727              | 229            | 1,482            |
| 8              | 1803-1804 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 132                | 887              | na                      | na                      | 150                | 877              | 282            | 1,764            |
| 9              | 1805-1806 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 158                | 1,045            | na                      | na                      | 88                 | 965              | 246            | 2,010            |
| 10             | 1807-1808 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 237                | 1,282            | na                      | na                      | 91                 | 1,056            | 328            | 2,338            |
| 11             | 1809-1810 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 293                | 1,575            | na                      | na                      | 167                | 1,223            | 460            | 2,798            |
| 12             | 1811-1812 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 314                | 1,889            | na                      | na                      | 204                | 1,427            | 518            | 3,316            |
| 13             | 1813-1814 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 352                | 2,241            | na                      | na                      | 263                | 1,690            | 615            | 3,931            |
| 14             | 1815-1816 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 113                | 2,354            | na                      | na                      | 189                | 1,879            | 302            | 4,233            |
| 15             | 1817-1818 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 106                | 2,460            | na                      | na                      | 132                | 2,011            | 238            | 4,471            |

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| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                    |                  | Senate                  |                         |                    |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | All Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                    |                  |                |                  |
| 16             | 1819-1820 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 147                | 2,607            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 120                | 2,131            | 267            | 4,738            |
| 17             | 1821-1822 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 95                 | 2,702            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 91                 | 2,222            | 186            | 4,924            |
| 18             | 1823-1824 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 94                 | 2,796            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 178                | 2,400            | 272            | 5,196            |
| 19             | 1825-1826 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 111                | 2,907            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 234                | 2,634            | 345            | 5,541            |
| 20             | 1827-1828 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 233                | 3,140            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 238                | 2,872            | 471            | 6,012            |
| 21             | 1829-1830 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 273                | 3,413            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 277                | 3,149            | 550            | 6,562            |
| 22             | 1831-1832 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 462                | 3,875            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 422                | 3,571            | 884            | 7,446            |
| 23             | 1833-1834 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 327                | 4,202            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 229                | 3,800            | 556            | 8,002            |
| 24             | 1835-1836 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 459                | 4,661            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 439                | 4,239            | 898            | 8,900            |
| 25             | 1837-1838 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 475                | 5,136            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 410                | 4,649            | 885            | 9,785            |
| 26             | 1839-1840 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 751                | 5,887            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 334                | 4,983            | 1,085          | 10,870           |
| 27             | 1841-1842 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 974                | 6,861            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 822                | 5,805            | 1,796          | 12,666           |
| 28             | 1843-1844 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 597                | 7,458            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 305                | 6,110            | 902            | 13,568           |
| 29             | 1845-1846 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 642                | 8,100            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 383                | 6,493            | 1,025          | 14,593           |
| 30             | 1847-1848 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 478                | 8,578            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 344                | 6,837            | 822            | 15,415           |
| 31             | 1849-1850 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 572                | 9,150            | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 499                | 7,336            | 1,071          | 16,486           |

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| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                    |                  | Senate                  |                         |                    |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | All Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                    |                  |                |                  |
| 32             | 1851-1852 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 455                | 9,605            | na                      | na                      | 358                | 7,694            | 813            | 17,299           |
| 33             | 1853-1854 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 607                | 10,212           | na                      | na                      | 546                | 8,240            | 1,153          | 18,452           |
| 34             | 1855-1856 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 729                | 10,941           | na                      | na                      | 449                | 8,689            | 1,178          | 19,630           |
| 35             | 1857-1858 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 548                | 11,489           | na                      | na                      | 702                | 9,391            | 1,250          | 20,880           |
| 36             | 1859-1860 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 433                | 11,922           | na                      | na                      | 607                | 9,998            | 1,040          | 21,920           |
| 37             | 1861-1862 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 638                | 12,560           | na                      | na                      | 801                | 10,799           | 1,439          | 23,359           |
| 38             | 1863-1864 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 600                | 13,160           | na                      | na                      | 598                | 11,397           | 1,198          | 24,557           |
| 39             | 1865-1866 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 613                | 13,773           | na                      | na                      | 501                | 11,898           | 1,114          | 25,671           |
| 40             | 1867-1868 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 717                | 14,490           | na                      | na                      | 716                | 12,614           | 1,433          | 27,104           |
| 41             | 1869-1870 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 634                | 15,124           | na                      | na                      | 742                | 13,356           | 1,376          | 28,480           |
| 42             | 1871-1872 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 517                | 15,641           | na                      | na                      | 803                | 14,159           | 1,320          | 29,800           |
| 43             | 1873-1874 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 475                | 16,116           | na                      | na                      | 420                | 14,579           | 895            | 30,695           |
| 44             | 1875-1876 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 328                | 16,444           | na                      | na                      | 434                | 15,013           | 762            | 31,457           |
| 45             | 1877-1878 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 377                | 16,821           | na                      | na                      | 585                | 15,598           | 962            | 32,419           |
| 46             | 1879-1880 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 439                | 17,260           | na                      | na                      | 570                | 16,168           | 1,009          | 33,428           |
| 47             | 1881-1882 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 349                | 17,609           | na                      | na                      | 986                | 17,154           | 1,335          | 34,763           |



## CRS-6

| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                    |                  | Senate                  |                         |                    |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | All Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                    |                  |                |                  |
| 48             | 1883-1884 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 334                | 17,943           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 428                | 17,582           | 762            | 35,525           |
| 49             | 1885-1886 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 306                | 18,249           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 461                | 18,043           | 767            | 36,292           |
| 50             | 1887-1888 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 320                | 18,569           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 389                | 18,432           | 709            | 37,001           |
| 51             | 1889-1890 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 587                | 19,156           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 526                | 18,958           | 1,113          | 38,114           |
| 52             | 1891-1892 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 304                | 19,460           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 209                | 19,167           | 513            | 38,627           |
| 53             | 1893-1894 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 373                | 19,833           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 561                | 19,728           | 934            | 39,561           |
| 54             | 1895-1896 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 162                | 19,995           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 197                | 19,925           | 359            | 39,920           |
| 55             | 1897-1898 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 183                | 20,178           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 381                | 20,306           | 564            | 40,484           |
| 56             | 1899-1900 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 149                | 20,327           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 169                | 20,475           | 318            | 40,802           |
| 57             | 1901-1902 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 185                | 20,512           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 118                | 20,593           | 303            | 41,105           |
| 58             | 1903-1904 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 87                 | 20,599           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 92                 | 20,685           | 179            | 41,284           |
| 59             | 1905-1906 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 136                | 20,735           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 128                | 20,813           | 264            | 41,548           |
| 60             | 1907-1908 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 312                | 21,047           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 84                 | 20,897           | 396            | 41,944           |
| 61             | 1909-1910 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 202                | 21,249           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 268                | 21,165           | 470            | 42,414           |
| 62             | 1911-1912 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 262                | 21,511           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 396                | 21,561           | 658            | 43,072           |
| 63             | 1913-1914 | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | <i>na</i>                              | <i>n/a</i>                  | <i>na</i>     | 282                | 21,793           | <i>na</i>               | <i>na</i>               | 572                | 22,133           | 854            | 43,926           |

## CRS-7

| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                    |                  | Senate                  |                         |                    |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | All Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | All Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                    |                  |                |                  |
| 64             | 1915-1916 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 157                | 21,950           | na                      | na                      | 406                | 22,539           | 563            | 44,489           |
| 65             | 1917-1918 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 266                | 22,216           | na                      | na                      | 384                | 22,923           | 650            | 45,139           |
| 66             | 1919-1920 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 339                | 22,555           | na                      | na                      | 407                | 23,330           | 746            | 45,885           |
| 67             | 1921-1922 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 362                | 22,917           | na                      | na                      | 751                | 24,081           | 1,113          | 46,998           |
| 68             | 1923-1924 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 179                | 23,096           | na                      | na                      | 235                | 24,316           | 414            | 47,412           |
| 69             | 1925-1926 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 114                | 23,210           | na                      | na                      | 236                | 24,552           | 350            | 47,762           |
| 70             | 1927-1928 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 72                 | 23,282           | na                      | na                      | 191                | 24,743           | 263            | 48,025           |
| 71             | 1929-1930 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 103                | 23,385           | na                      | na                      | 436                | 25,179           | 539            | 48,564           |
| 72             | 1931-1932 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 123                | 23,508           | na                      | na                      | 280                | 25,459           | 403            | 48,967           |
| 73             | 1933-1934 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 143                | 23,651           | na                      | na                      | 228                | 25,687           | 371            | 49,338           |
| 74             | 1935-1936 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 212                | 23,863           | na                      | na                      | 193                | 25,880           | 405            | 49,743           |
| 75             | 1937-1938 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 158                | 24,021           | na                      | na                      | 174                | 26,054           | 332            | 50,075           |
| 76             | 1939-1940 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 227                | 24,248           | na                      | na                      | 266                | 26,320           | 493            | 50,568           |
| 77             | 1941-1942 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 152                | 24,400           | na                      | na                      | 192                | 26,512           | 344            | 50,912           |
| 78             | 1943-1944 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 155                | 24,555           | na                      | na                      | 220                | 26,732           | 375            | 51,287           |
| 79             | 1945-1946 | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | na                                     | n/a                         | na            | 249                | 24,804           | na                      | na                      | 244                | 26,976           | 493            | 51,780           |

## CRS-8

| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                     |                  | Senate                  |                         |                     |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | Both Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | Both Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Both Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                     |                  |                |                  |
| 80             | 1947-1948 | 84                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 84            | 79                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 79            | 163                 | 24,967           | 138                     | 110                     | 248                 | 27,224           | 411            | 52,191           |
| 81             | 1949-1950 | 121                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 121           | 154                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 154           | 275                 | 25,242           | 226                     | 229                     | 455                 | 27,679           | 730            | 52,921           |
| 82             | 1951-1952 | 109                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 109           | 72                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 72            | 181                 | 25,423           | 202                     | 129                     | 331                 | 28,010           | 512            | 53,433           |
| 83             | 1953-1954 | 71                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 71            | 76                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 76            | 147                 | 25,570           | 89                      | 181                     | 270                 | 28,280           | 417            | 53,850           |
| 84             | 1955-1956 | 73                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 73            | 74                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 74            | 147                 | 25,717           | 88                      | 136                     | 224                 | 28,504           | 371            | 54,221           |
| 85             | 1957-1958 | 100                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 100           | 93                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 93            | 193                 | 25,910           | 111                     | 202                     | 313                 | 28,817           | 506            | 54,727           |
| 86             | 1959-1960 | 87                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 87            | 93                                     | <i>n/a</i>                  | 93            | 180                 | 26,090           | 215                     | 207                     | 422                 | 29,239           | 602            | 55,329           |
| 87             | 1961-1962 | 116                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 116           | 124                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 124           | 240                 | 26,330           | 207                     | 227                     | 434                 | 29,673           | 674            | 56,003           |
| 88             | 1963-1964 | 119                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 119           | 113                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 113           | 232                 | 26,562           | 229                     | 312                     | 541                 | 30,214           | 773            | 56,776           |
| 89             | 1965-1966 | 201                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 201           | 193                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 193           | 394                 | 26,956           | 259                     | 238                     | 497                 | 30,711           | 891            | 57,667           |
| 90             | 1967-1968 | 245                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 245           | 233                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 233           | 478                 | 27,434           | 315                     | 280                     | 595                 | 31,306           | 1,073          | 58,740           |
| 91             | 1969-1970 | 177                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 177           | 266                                    | <i>n/a</i>                  | 266           | 443                 | 27,877           | 245                     | 422                     | 667                 | 31,973           | 1,110          | 59,850           |
| 92             | 1971-1972 | 212                                    | 108                         | 320           | 244                                    | 85                          | 329           | 649                 | 28,526           | 423                     | 532                     | 955                 | 32,928           | 1,604          | 61,454           |
| 93             | 1973-1974 | 307                                    | 234                         | 541           | 325                                    | 212                         | 537           | 1,078               | 29,604           | 594                     | 544                     | 1,138               | 34,066           | 2,216          | 63,670           |
| 94             | 1975-1976 | 362                                    | 250                         | 612           | 448                                    | 213                         | 661           | 1,273               | 30,877           | 611                     | 700                     | 1,311               | 35,377           | 2,584          | 66,254           |
| 95             | 1977-1978 | 471                                    | 235                         | 706           | 564                                    | 270                         | 834           | 1,540               | 32,417           | 636                     | 520                     | 1,156               | 36,533           | 2,696          | 68,950           |

CRS-9

| Congress/Years |           | House of Representatives               |                             |               |  |                             |               |                     |                  | Senate                  |                         |                     |                  | Both Chambers  |                  |
|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                |           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session                |                             |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session                |                             |               | Both Sessions       |                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Session | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Session | Both Sessions Total | Cumulative Total | Congress Total | Cumulative Total |
|                |           | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Roll Call (yea/nay) Votes <sup>a</sup> | Recorded Votes <sup>b</sup> | Session Total | Both Sessions Total | Cumulative Total |                         |                         |                     |                  |                |                  |
| 96             | 1979-1980 | 359                                    | 313                         | 672           | 420                                    | 184                         | 604           | 1,276               | 33,693           | 509                     | 546                     | 1,055               | 37,588           | 2,331          | 71,281           |
| 97             | 1981-1982 | 224                                    | 129                         | 353           | 295                                    | 164                         | 459           | 812                 | 34,505           | 497                     | 469                     | 966                 | 38,554           | 1,778          | 73,059           |
| 98             | 1983-1984 | 297                                    | 201                         | 498           | 227                                    | 181                         | 408           | 906                 | 35,411           | 381                     | 292                     | 673                 | 39,227           | 1,579          | 74,638           |
| 99             | 1985-1986 | 255                                    | 184                         | 439           | 224                                    | 227                         | 451           | 890                 | 36,301           | 381                     | 359                     | 740                 | 39,967           | 1,630          | 76,268           |
| 100            | 1987-1988 | 234                                    | 254                         | 488           | 308                                    | 143                         | 451           | 939                 | 37,240           | 420                     | 379                     | 799                 | 40,766           | 1,738          | 78,006           |
| 101            | 1989-1990 | 226                                    | 142                         | 368           | 271                                    | 239                         | 510           | 878                 | 38,118           | 312                     | 326                     | 638                 | 41,404           | 1,516          | 79,522           |
| 102            | 1991-1992 | 238                                    | 190                         | 428           | 271                                    | 202                         | 473           | 901                 | 39,019           | 280                     | 270                     | 550                 | 41,954           | 1,451          | 80,973           |
| 103            | 1993-1994 | 266                                    | 331                         | 597           | 205                                    | 292                         | 497           | 1,094               | 40,113           | 395                     | 329                     | 724                 | 42,678           | 1,818          | 82,791           |
| 104            | 1995-1996 | 299                                    | 568                         | 867           | 223                                    | 231                         | 454           | 1,321               | 41,434           | 613                     | 306                     | 919                 | 43,597           | 2,240          | 85,031           |
| 105            | 1997-1998 | 285                                    | 348                         | 633           | 257                                    | 276                         | 533           | 1,166               | 42,600           | 298                     | 314                     | 612                 | 44,209           | 1,778          | 86,809           |
| 106            | 1999-2000 | 320                                    | 289                         | 609           | 359                                    | 241                         | 600           | 1,209               | 43,809           | 374                     | 298                     | 672                 | 44,881           | 1,881          | 88,690           |
| 107            | 2001-2002 | 313                                    | 194                         | 507           | 302                                    | 181                         | 483           | 990                 | 44,799           | 380                     | 253                     | 633                 | 45,514           | 1,623          | 90,313           |
| 108            | 2003-2004 | 417                                    | 258                         | 675           | 313                                    | 230                         | 543           | 1218                | 46,017           | 459                     | 216                     | 675                 | 46,189           | 1,893          | 92,206           |

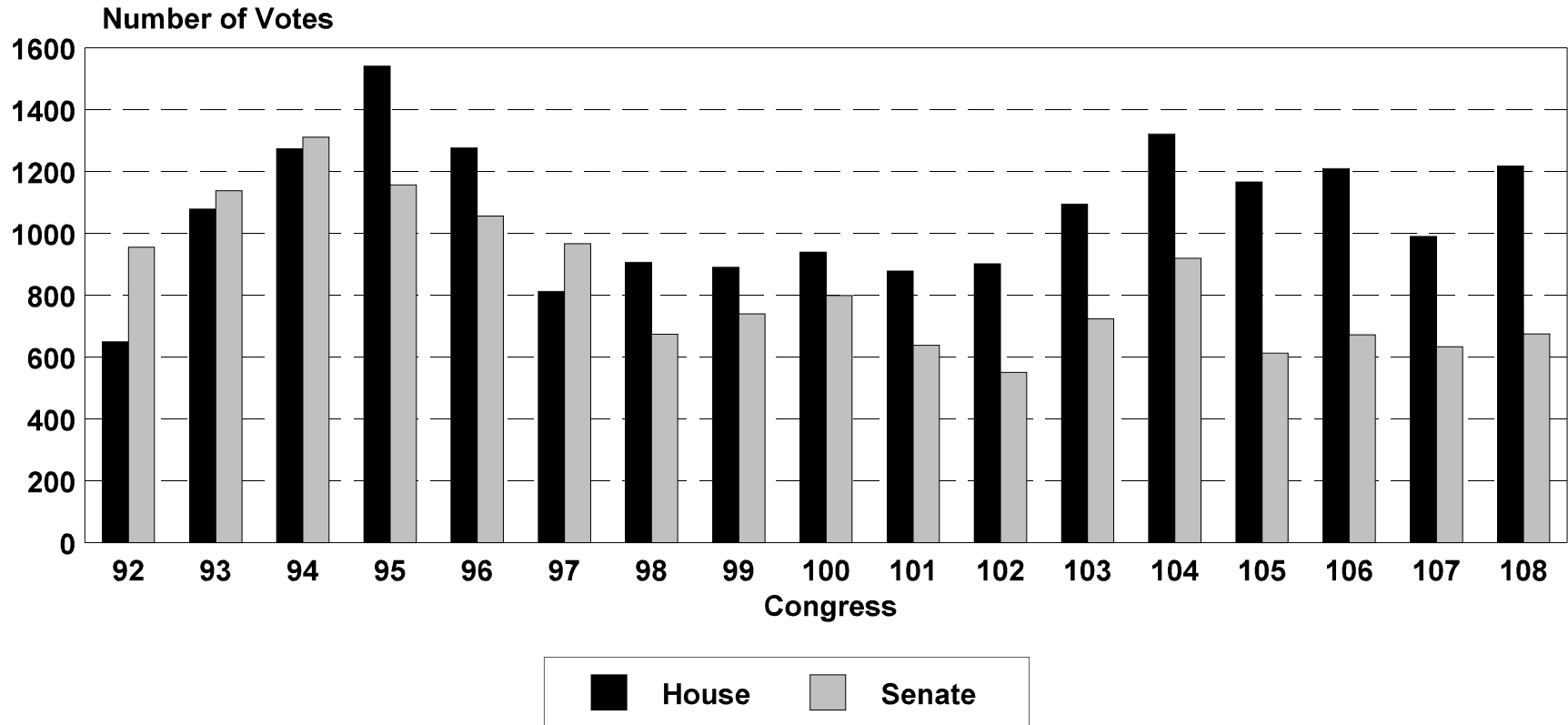
**Source:** Data were obtained from the following sources: (1) U.S. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, *Number of Roll Call Votes in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate, First Through 79<sup>th</sup> Congresses*, by Sula P. Richardson, Report unnumbered (Washington: Jan. 16, 1985, out of print); *Indicators of House of Representatives Workload and Activity*, by Roger H. Davidson and Carol Hardy, CRS Report 87-492 S (Washington: June 8, 1987, out of print); *Indicators of Senate Activity and Workload*, by Roger H. Davidson and Carol Hardy, CRS Report 87-497 S (Washington: June 8, 1987, out of print); and (2) *Congressional Record*, Daily Digest, "Resume of Congressional Activity," Dec. 22, 1987, p. D1679; Nov. 10, 1988, p. D1399; Nov. 21, 1989, p. D1431; Nov. 2, 1990, p. D1453; Nov. 27, 1991, p. D1549; Oct. 9, 1992, p. D1332; Nov. 26, 1993, p. D1389; Dec. 1, 1994, p. D1273; Jan. 3, 1996, p. D1535; Oct. 4, 1996, p. D1053; Jan. 19, 1999, p. D29; Jan. 30, 2002, p. D46; Jan. 29, 2002, p. D23; Dec. 16, 2002, p. D1193, Dec. 8, 2003, p. D1349, and Dec 20, 2004, p. D1135.

**Notes:** For the purposes of this compilation, a record vote is defined as any vote for which public record is made of how individual Members voted (for or against). In the House, record votes include both roll call (yea and nay) and recorded votes. In the Senate, all record votes (yea and nay, and roll call votes) are taken by a call of the roll. See text for definition of terms.

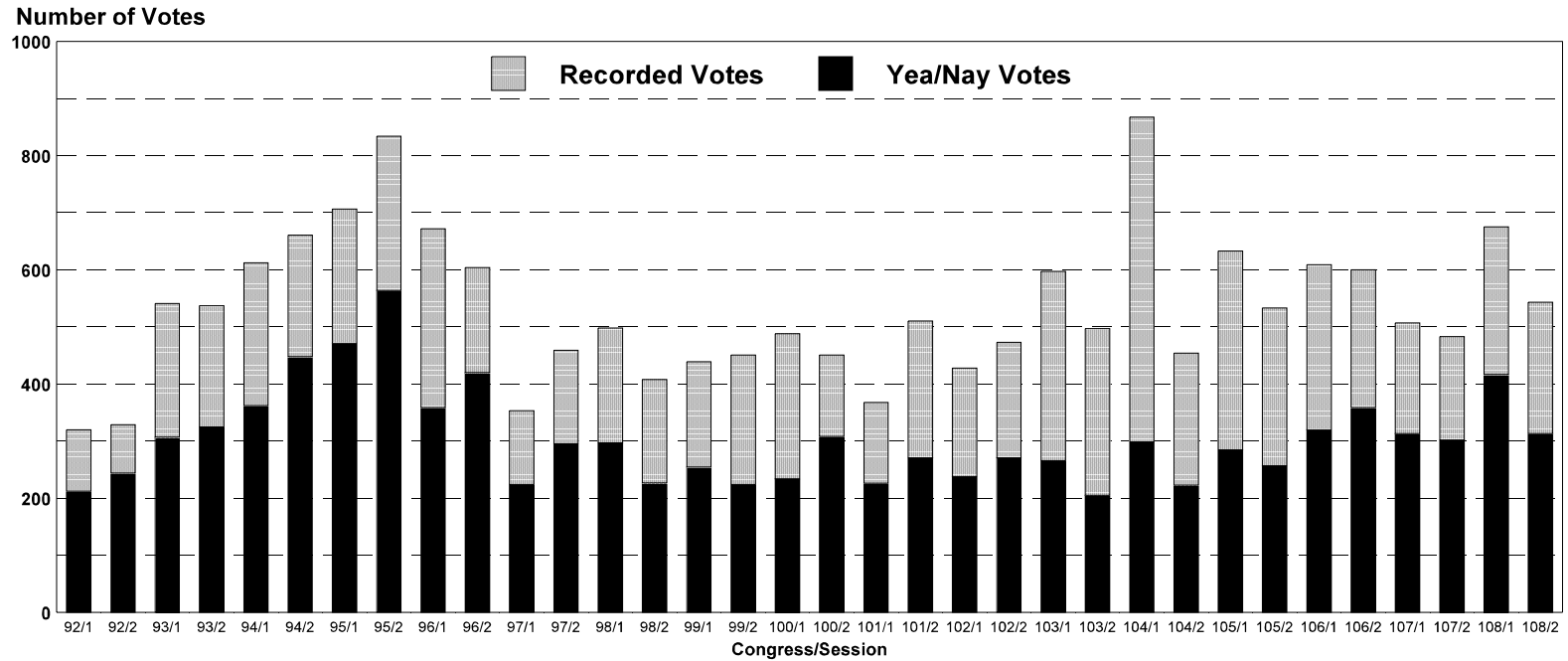
a. Roll call (yea and nay) votes are taken only when the House is sitting as the House and not when in Committee of the Whole (na=not readily available).

b. Recorded votes may be taken when the House sits either as the House or in Committee of the Whole. Because this form of record votes began in 1971 in the House, the table indicates n/a (not applicable) for the period 1789 through 1970.

**Figure 1. Total Number of Record Votes, House of Representatives and Senate, 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress - 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1971-2004**



**Figure 2. Total Number of Record Votes (Yea/Nay and Recorded), House of Representatives, by Session, 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress - 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1971-2004**



**Figure 3. Total Number of Record Votes, Senate, by Session, 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress - 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1971-2004**

Number of Votes

