

# Warm Up: 3/12-13

## WARM UP ACTIVITY

- Explain the primary purpose of legislative branch.
  - How did the Great Compromise influence the dynamics of American legislature?
- What is the overall partisan make up of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress?

**Chapter 13 (Federal Budget) March 16<sup>th</sup>**

## LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What role does the legislative branch play in policy-making?
2. How is Congress structured?
3. What are the responsibilities of Congressional Committees?

March 12-13, 2018

# Congressional Powers & Committees

# Congressional Powers & Committees

## TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

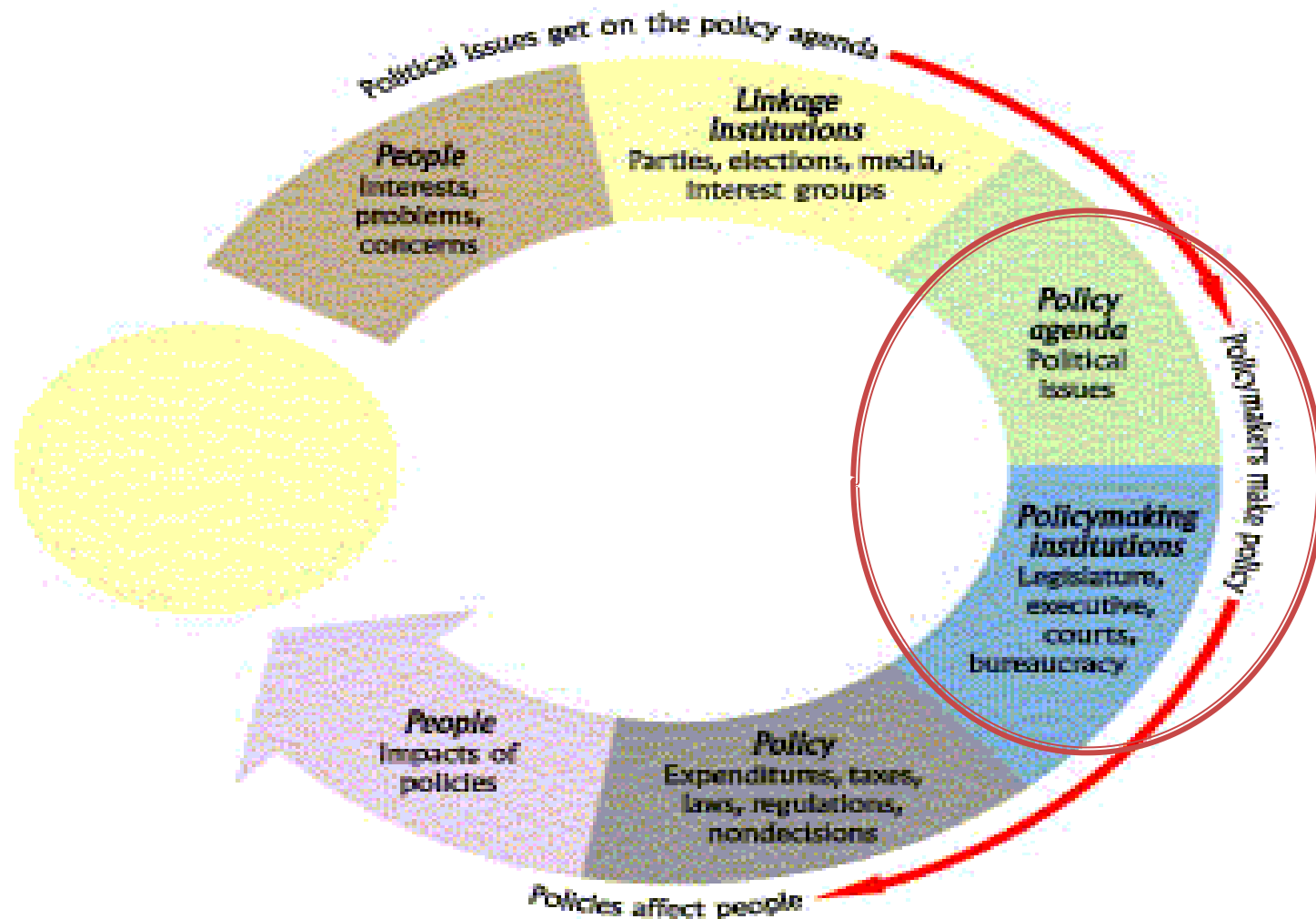
- Political scientists will, verbally and in writing, ***analyze*** the structure of the legislative branch of the US government.

**Relevance:** Congress is the supreme law-making body in the US, with power to influence every day individual liberties with their policies.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What role does the legislative branch play in policy-making?
2. How is Congress structured?
3. What are the responsibilities of Congressional Committees?

# Where are we on the policy wheel?



# The Enumerated Powers of Congress: Article I, Section 8

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

- To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
- To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;
- To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;
- To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;
- To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;
- To establish post offices and post roads;
- To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;
- To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
- To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations;
- To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;
- To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;
- To provide and maintain a navy...

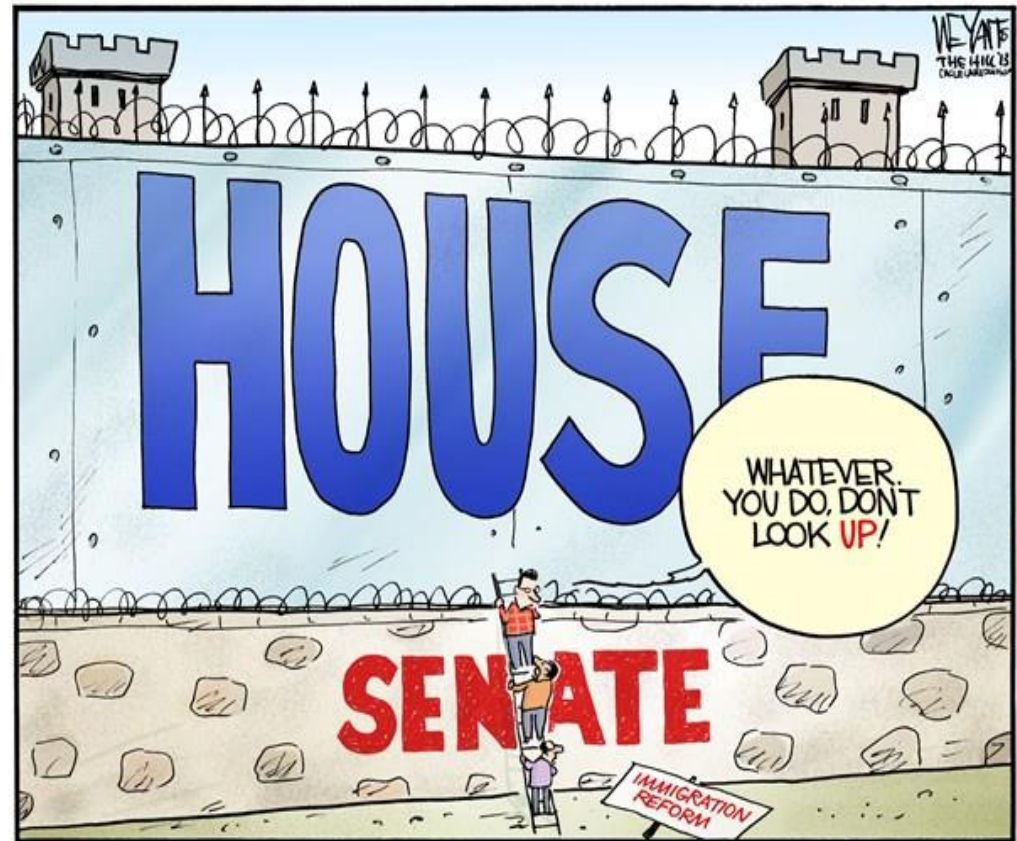
# The Legislative Branch: Congress

## ■ Legislative Branch

- “law makers”
- Central policy-making institution in American government
- Representative of the American public - constituents

## ■ Bicameral

- Great (Connecticut) Compromise
- Two Branches
  - House of Representatives
  - Senate



# American Bicameralism

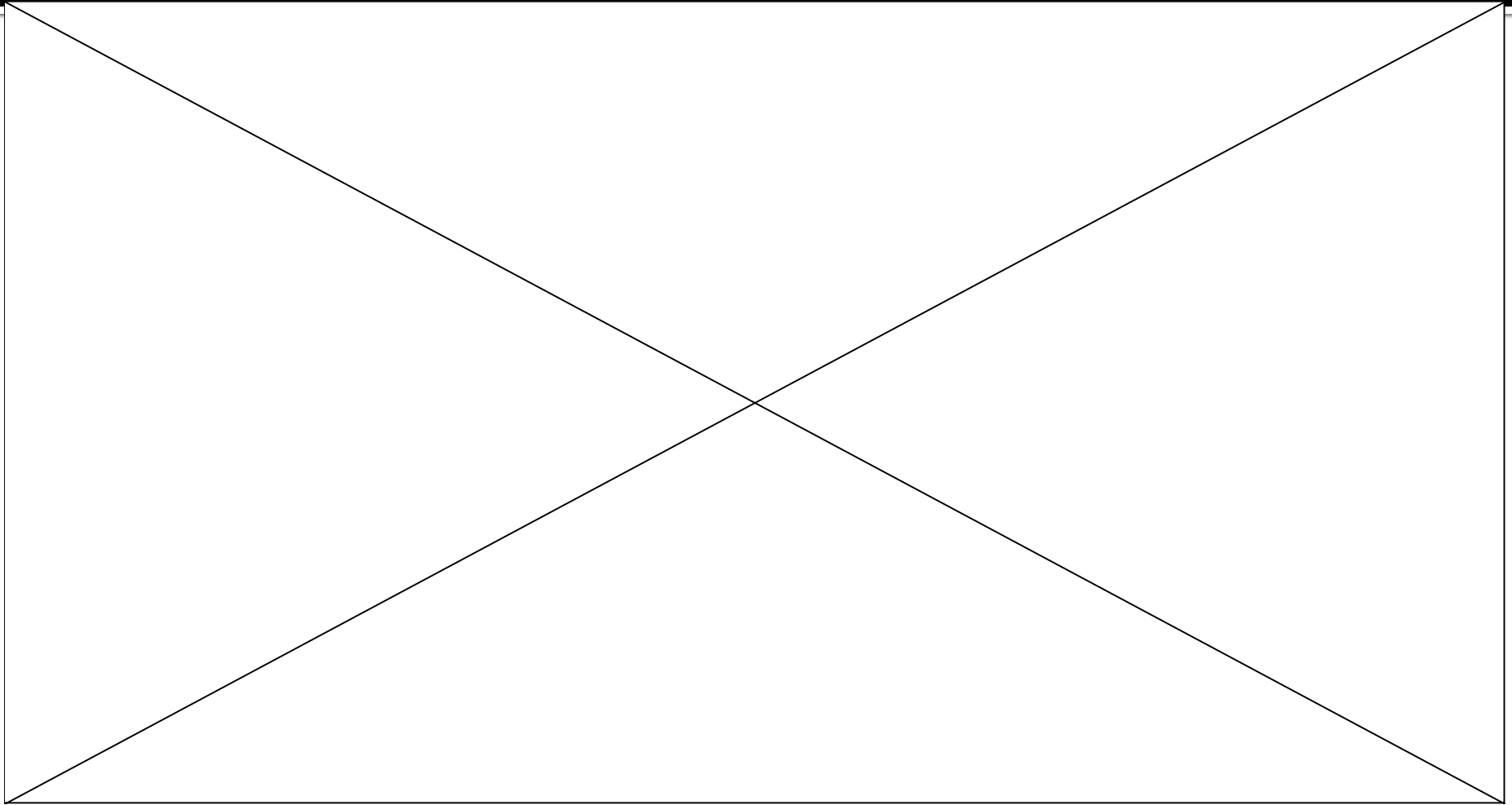
## The House

- 435 members, 2-year terms of office
- Initiates all revenue bills, more influential on budget
- House Rules Committee
- Limited debates
  - Based on rules

## The Senate

- 100 members, 6-year terms of office
- Gives “advice & consent,” more influential on foreign affairs
- Unlimited debates (**filibuster**)
  - Strategy unique to Senate
  - Unlimited debate to prevent voting on a bill

# Crash Course Government: Congress



- Take notes on the Constitutional provisions and powers set forth for the Legislative Branch of the federal government.
- <https://www.youtube.com/v/ngdefOwVWS8>



# The Job

## ■ Salary

- Rank-and-file members of the House and Senate is \$174,000 per year
- Leadership positions receive \$193,400-223,500 per year
- Receive retirement and health care benefits

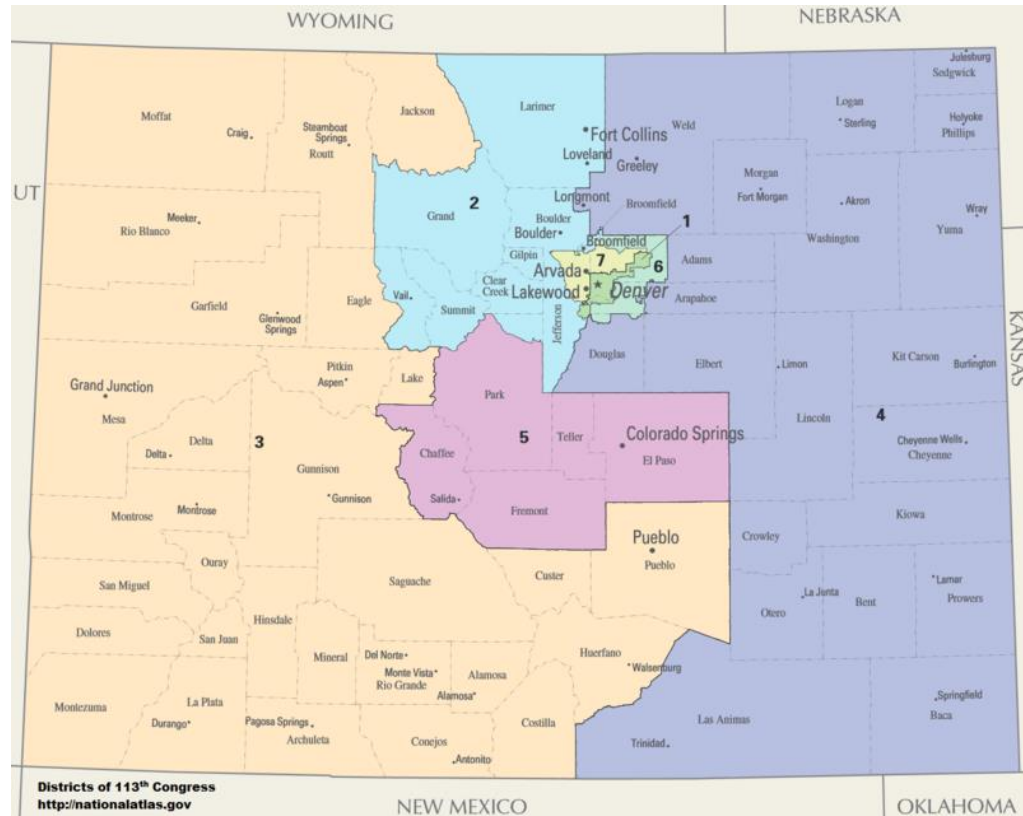
## ■ Congressional immunity

- prevents a President or other officials of the executive branch coercing Congressional members into voting a certain way



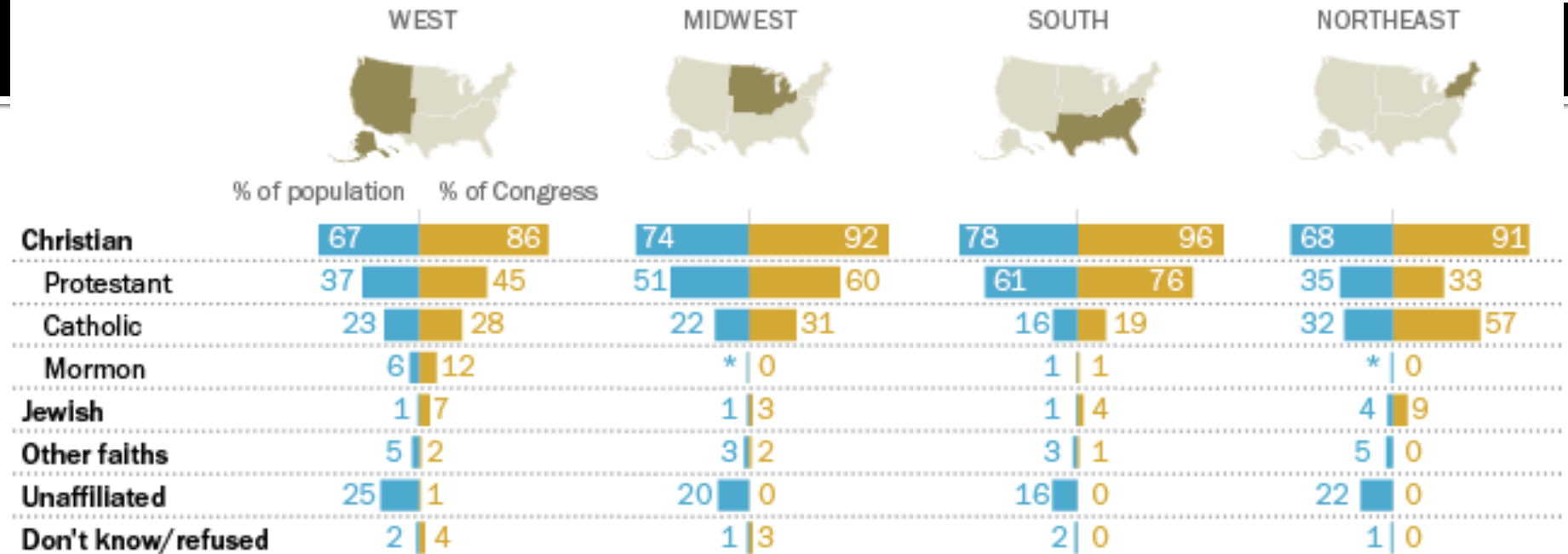
# Congressional Elections

- House members represent single-member districts
  - Elections held every two years
- Two Senators serve each state
  - Elections held every two years
  - Only 1/3 of Senators face reelection for each election



# Religious Affiliation in the 114th Congress

*Religious affiliation of the general population and the 114th Congress, by region*



Sources: Figures for Congress based on data collected by CQ Roll Call and the Pew Research Center. General public data comes from aggregated Pew Research Center surveys in 2013.

Note: The "other faiths" category includes (but is not limited to) Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Unitarians. This analysis was completed before Rep. Michael G. Grimm, R-N.Y., announced his intention to resign effective Jan. 5, 2015.

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- Cite it:** 1-2 sentences; What is the title/subject of the data & where is it from? (if available) [1 pt]
- Explain it:** 3-4 Sentences; What are the general trends & patterns shown? How are the dependent and independent variables correlated through the data? [2 pts]
- Elaborate upon it:** 1-2 Sentences; What is the significance of the trends/patterns and how do they relate to the political phenomena/topic we are discussing? What are the broad conclusions that should be taken away from the data about American government & politics? [2 pts]

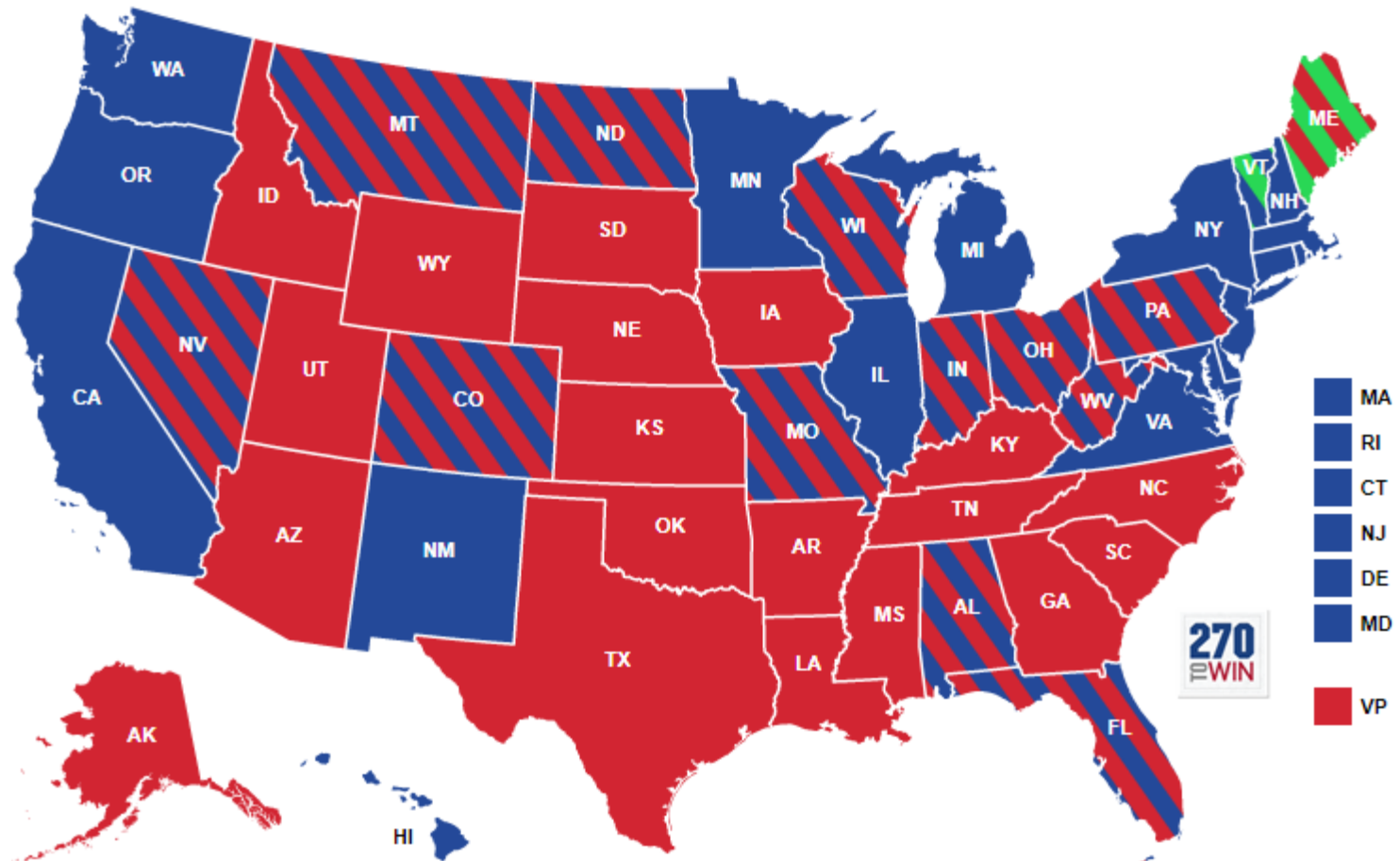
# 114<sup>th</sup> Congressional Religious Affiliation: Data Analysis Exemplar

This data was collected by the Pew Research Center in 2013 and provides a comparison of regional religious demographic data with the religious affiliations of Congressional leaders from those regions. The independent variable in this dataset are the regions (West, Midwest, South & Northeast) and the two dependent variables are the percentage of religious affiliates in the regions' populations AND the affiliations of their Congressional representatives. The most prominent trends show that all regions are mostly Christian with between 67-78% of the regions' populations affiliated with Protestantism or Catholicism and a very small percentage identifying as Mormon. Christian representation in Congress is also overwhelming with between 86-96% of officials in each region affiliating with one of these three branches of Christianity. The Jewish population is between 1-4% among the four regions, but Jewish representation in Congress is actually higher than the population demographics, ranging between 3-9% of representatives in these regions. Other faiths, unaffiliated individuals and those who did not know/refused to answer still makes up a significant portion of the population in each region, ranging between 22-33% of the population in each region. However, the percentage of representatives in these categories only ranges between 4-14% among these regions. Overall, this data shows that Judeo-Christian values are vastly overrepresented in the 114<sup>th</sup> US Congress, while those who are unaffiliated with a religion, worship other faiths or simply did not know/respond are vastly underrepresented by the current Congressional body. This may indicate that Judeo-Christian values are preferred over those of other faiths or unaffiliated beliefs in the American two-party system.

# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Senate

Democrats 49

51 Republicans



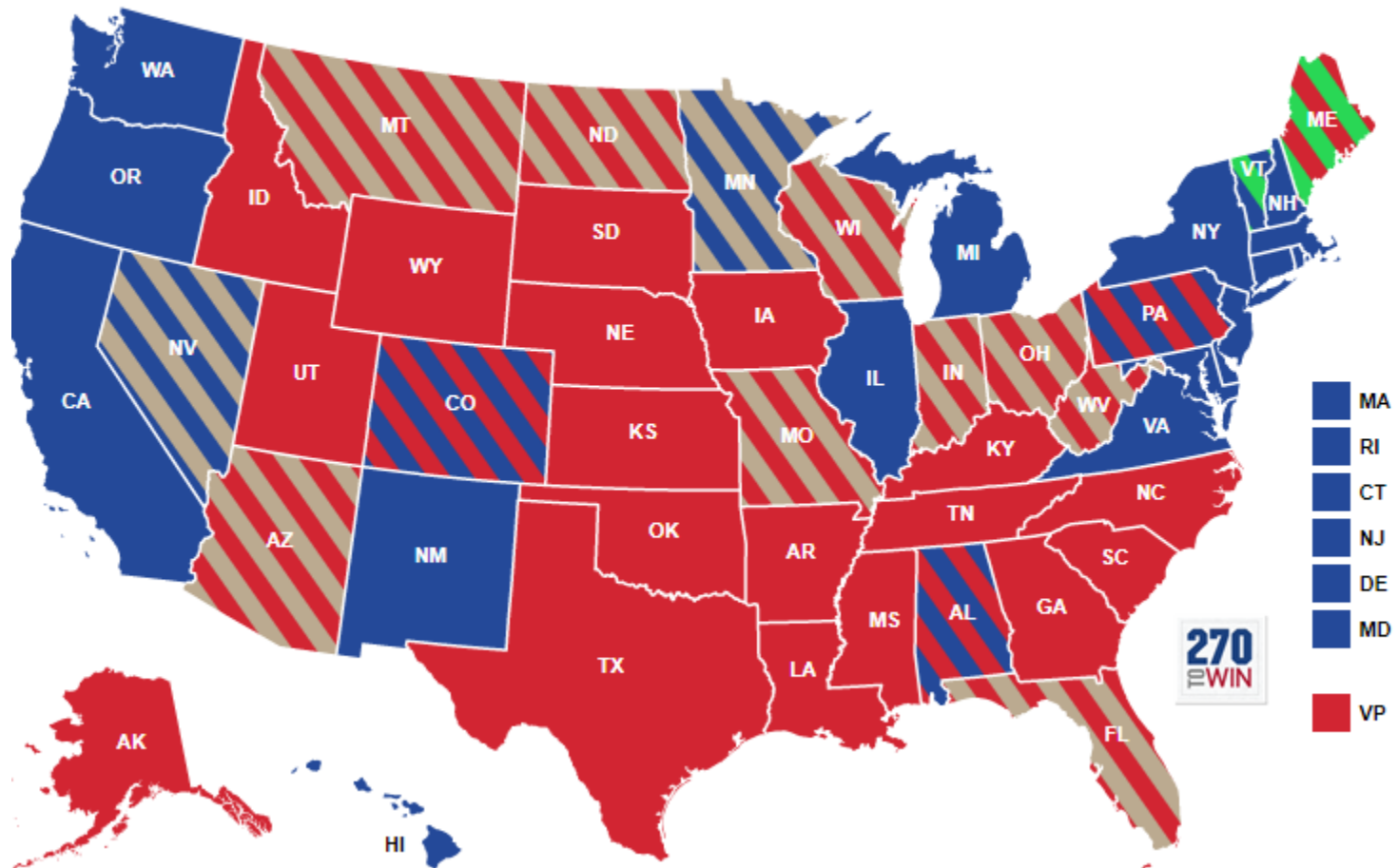
# Possible 116<sup>th</sup> Congress: 2018

## Senate Races

Democrats 40

49 Republicans

11





# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: House of Representatives

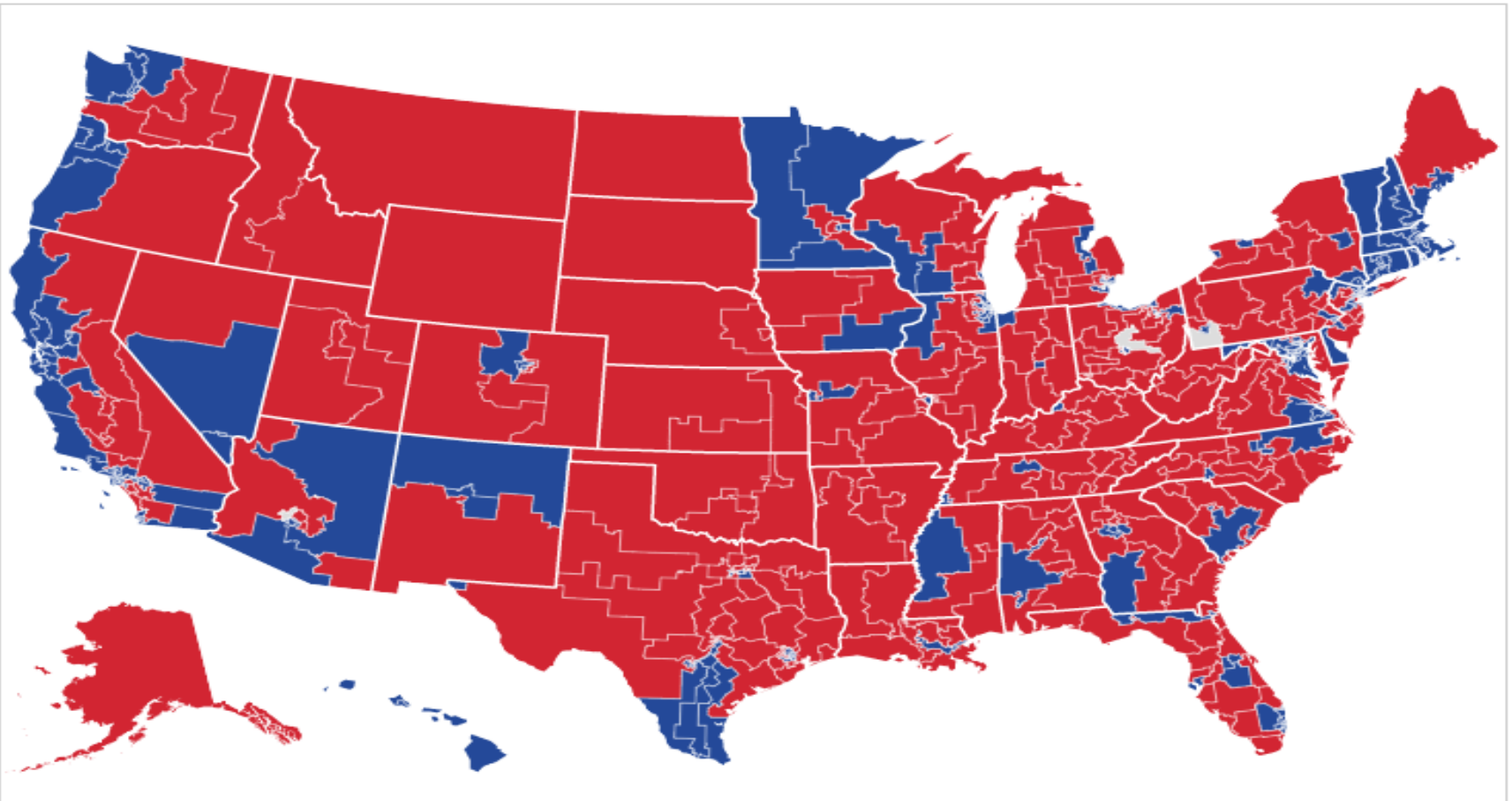
Democrats 193

238 Republicans

United States ▼

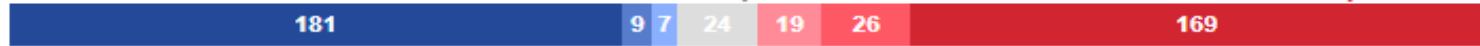


Full Size



# Contested 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: 2018 House of Representatives Races

Democrats 197

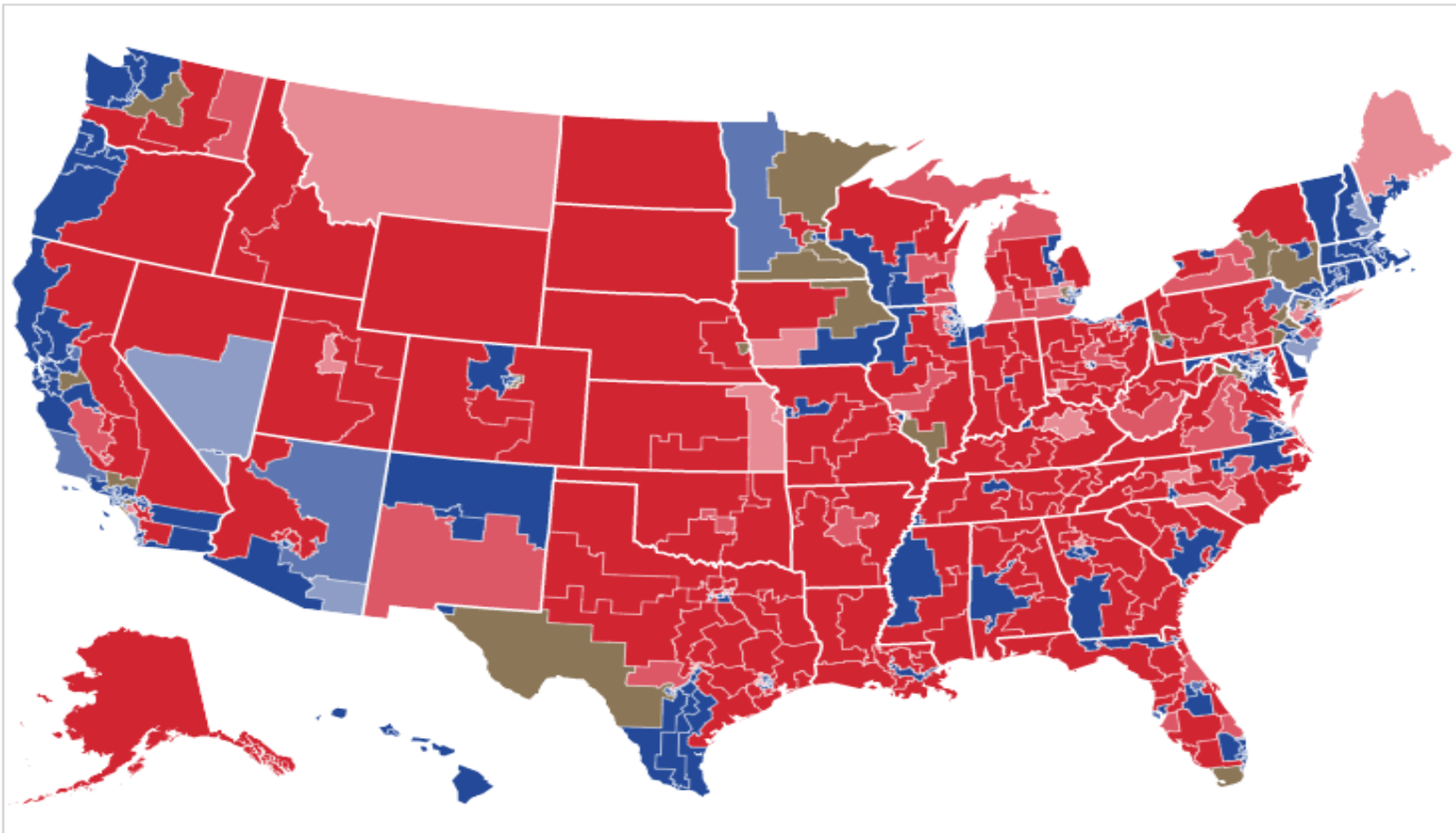


214 Republicans

United States ▼

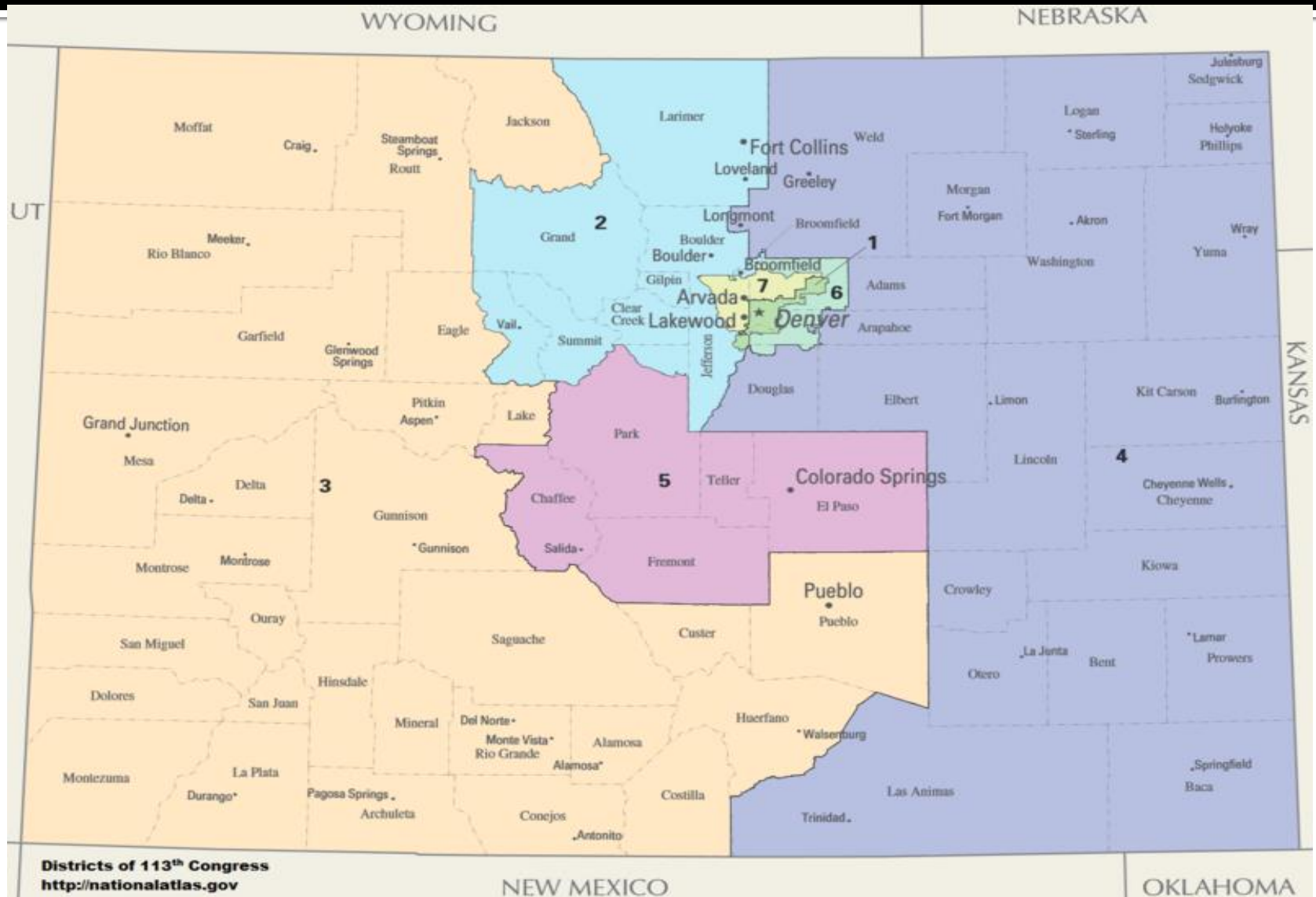


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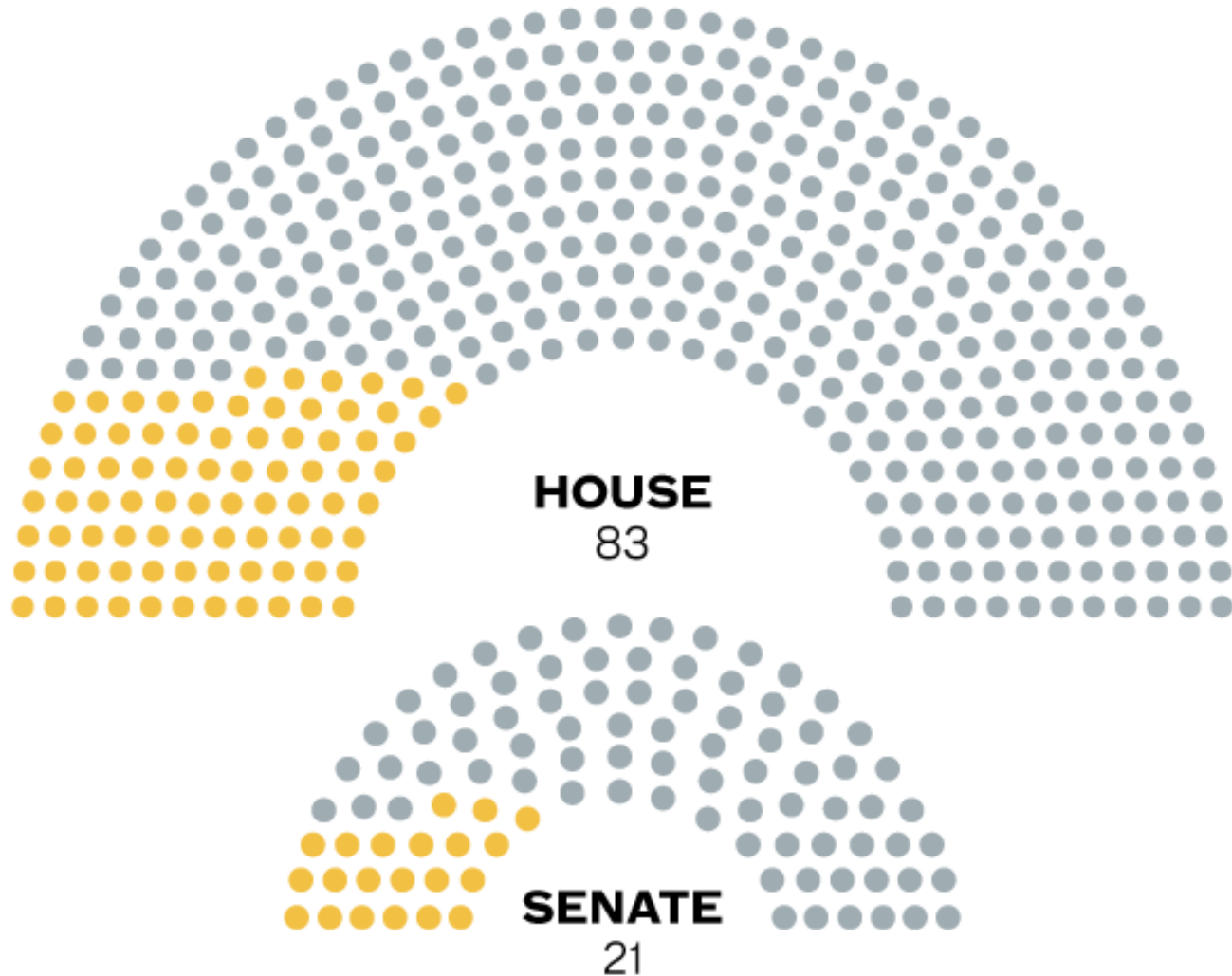


# Colorado's US Congressional Districts



# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Gender

**WOMEN:** 104 total



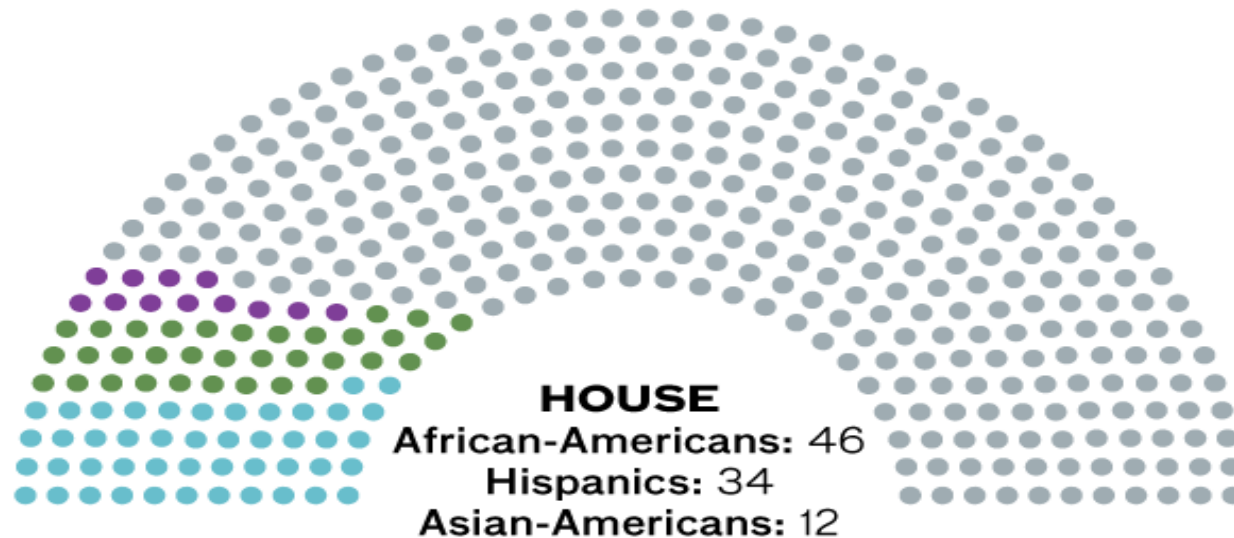
# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Race/Ethnicity

**MINORITIES:** 102 total

● African-Americans: 49

● Hispanics: 38

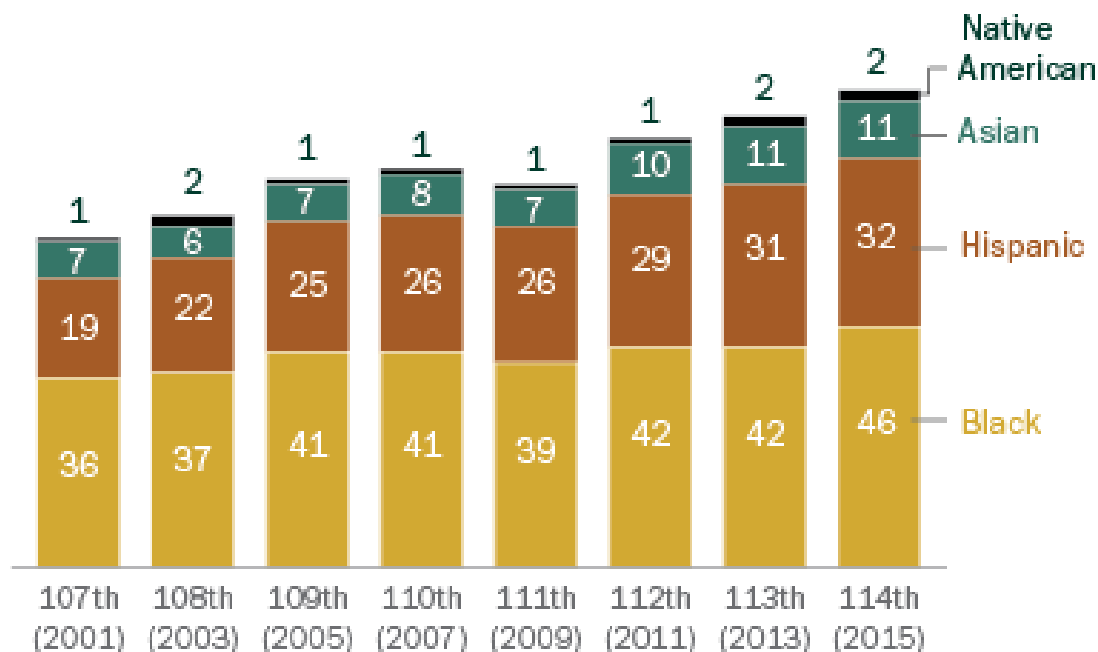
● Asian-Americans: 15



# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Race/Ethnicity

## Growing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Congress

*Number of House and Senate members by race and ethnicity*



Note: The data do not include nonvoting delegates or commissioners. Figures represent the makeup of Congress on the first day of the session. Asian includes Pacific Islanders.

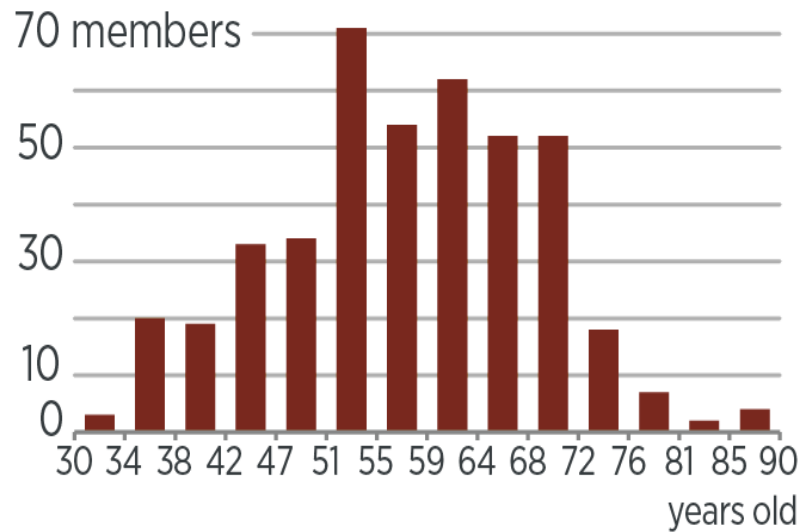
Source: CQ Roll Call, Congressional Research Service, Brookings Institution

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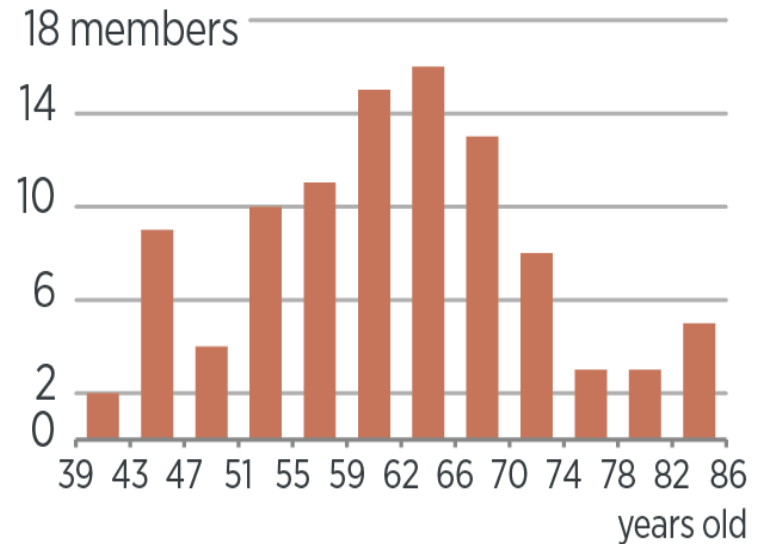
# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Age

## Ages of the 115th Congress

### House



### Senate



# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Occupation

Occupation	House	Senate
Public office	191	44
Business	178	29
Law	156	50
Education	77	20
Real estate	30	5
Agriculture	23	5
Labor/blue collar	23	2
Medicine/doctor	17	4
Homemaker	15	5
Secretarial	17	2
Journalism	13	4
Health care	15	
Military	11	1
Technical	7	3
Engineering	9	
Clergy	8	1
Law enforcement	8	
Hospitality	6	
Science	5	
Professional athlete	5	
Artistic/creative	2	3
Actor/artist	1	2
Aeronautics	2	






Note: Members can be counted under more than one occupation

# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Education

## Education

House

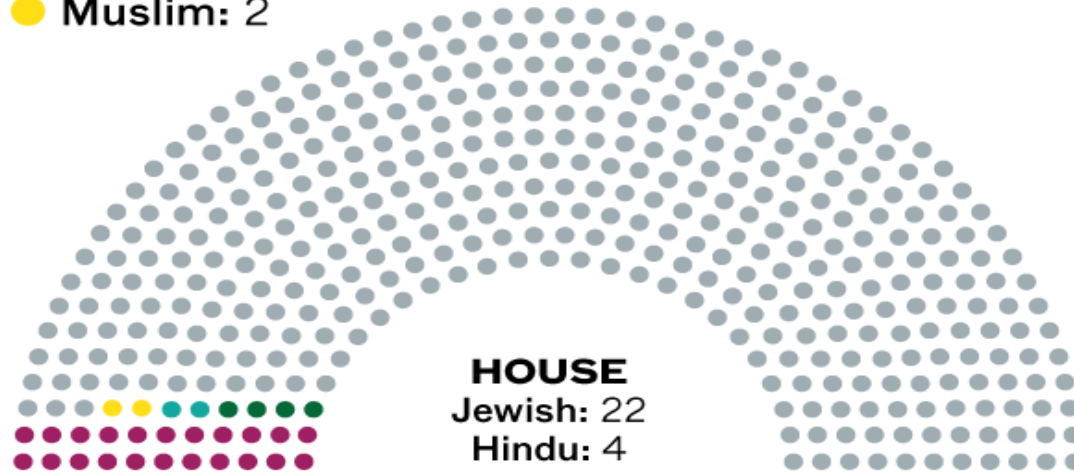
Senate

Advanced degree	 234	 57
Bachelor's or associate degree	 184	 22
No degree	 13	0

# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Religious Affiliation

**NON-CHRISTIAN:** 39 total

- Jewish: 30
- Hindu: 4
- Buddhist: 3
- Muslim: 2



## HOUSE

Jewish: 22  
Hindu: 4  
Buddhist: 2  
Muslim: 2



## SENATE

Jewish: 8  
Buddhist: 1



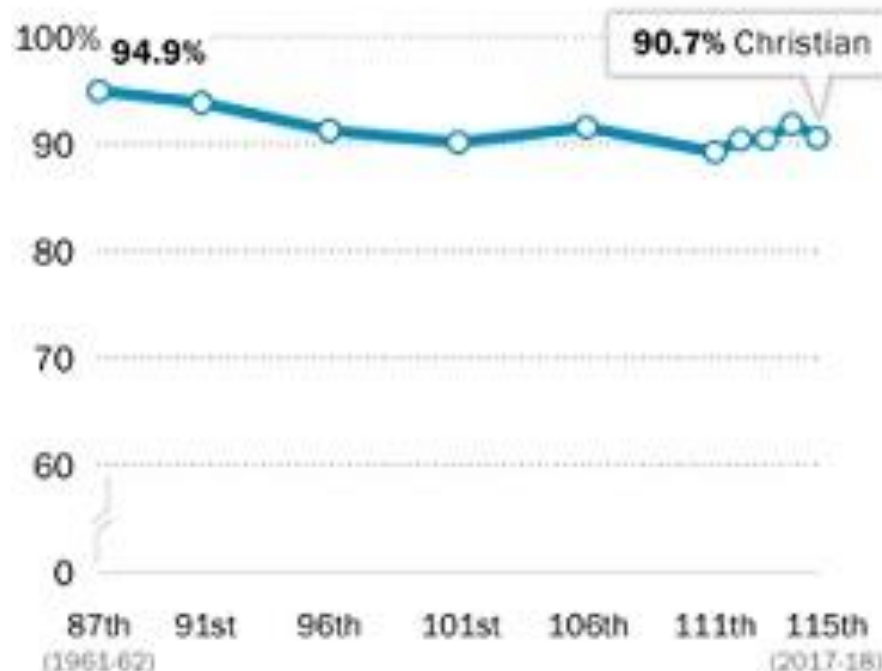
# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Religious Affiliation

Religion	House	Senate
Roman Catholic	143	24
Protestant -other	80	14
Baptist	50	10
Methodist	31	9
Presbyterian	22	13
Episcopalian	27	5
Jewish	22	8
Lutheran	19	7
Other/unspecified	11	3
Mormon	7	6
Eastern Orthodox	4	
African Methodist Episcopal	4	
Pentecostal	3	
Buddhist	2	1
Seventh-Day Adventist	2	
Muslim	2	
Christian Scientist	2	

# 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Religious Affiliation

## Congress remains overwhelmingly Christian

*% of members who identify themselves as Christian*



Source: Figures for Congress based on Pew Research Center analysis of data collected by CQ Roll Call, reflecting members of Congress to be sworn in on Jan. 3, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

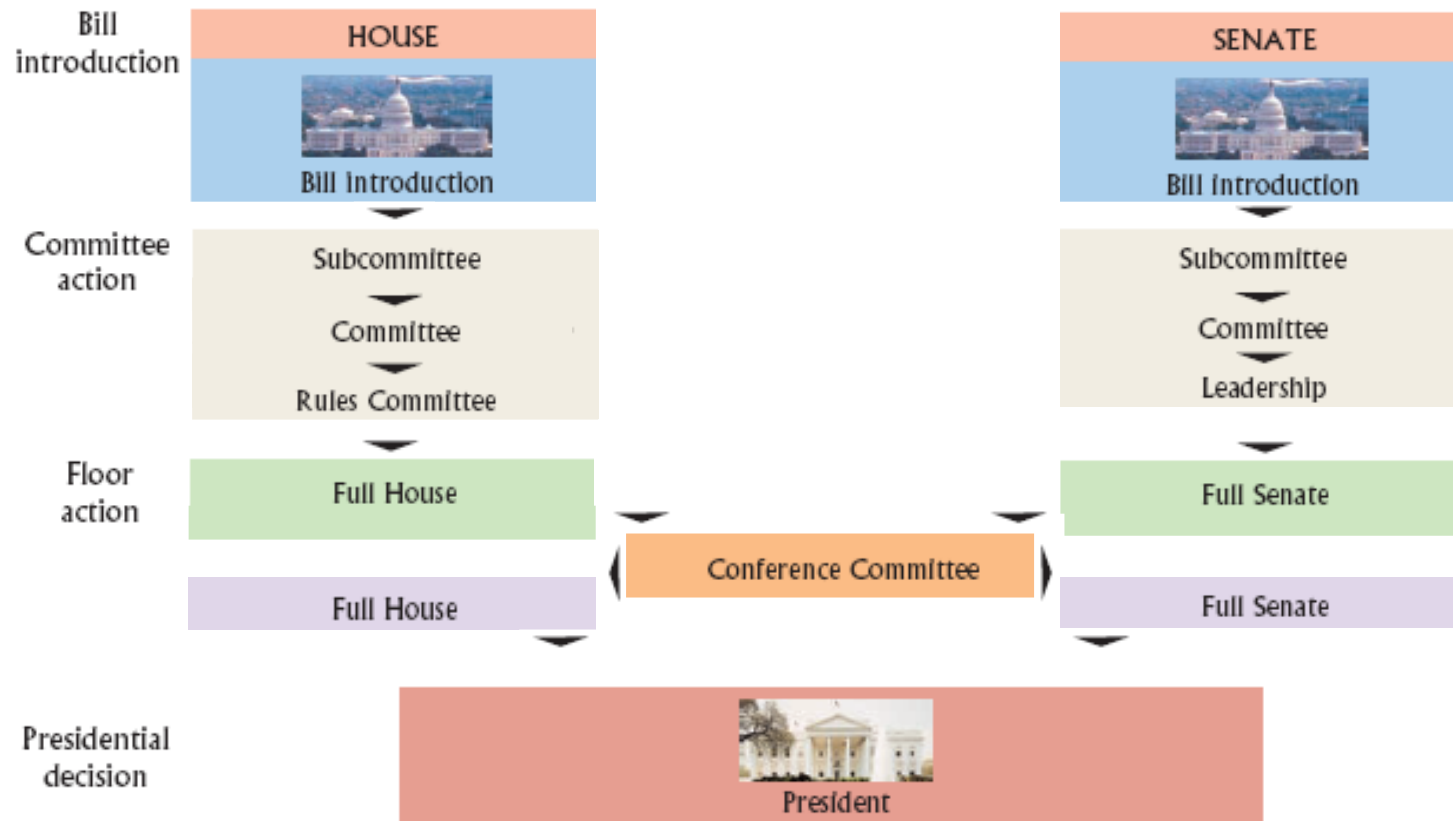
# House Versus Senate: Some Key Differences

CHARACTERISTIC	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE
Constitutional powers	Must initiate all revenue bills; must pass all articles of impeachment	Must give "advice and consent" to many presidential nominations; must approve treaties; tries impeached officials
Membership	435 members	100 members
Term of office	2 years	6 years
Constituencies	Usually smaller	Usually larger
Centralization of power	More centralized; stronger leadership	Less centralized; weaker leadership
Political prestige	Less prestige	More prestige
Role in policymaking	More influential on budget; more specialized	More influential on foreign affairs; less specialized
Turnover	Small	Moderate
Role of seniority	More important in determining power	Less important in determining power
Procedures	Limited debate; limits on floor amendments allowed	Unlimited debate

# The Congressional Process

**FIGURE 12.2**

How a Bill Becomes a Law



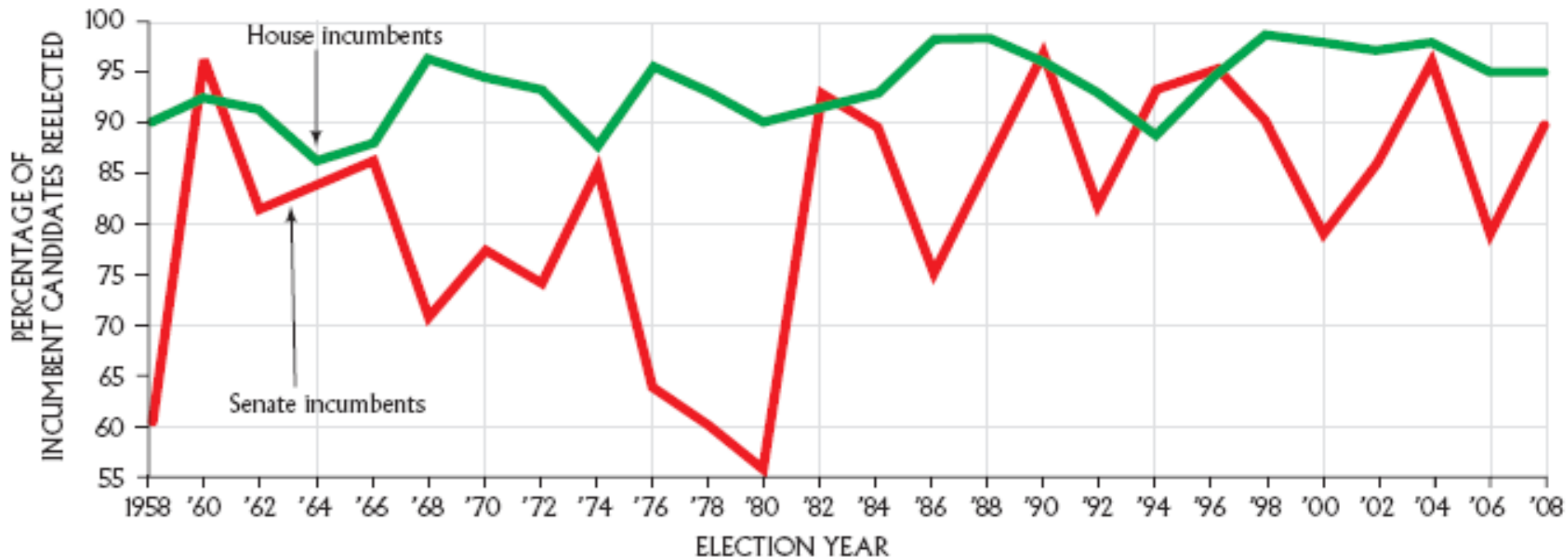
# The Incumbent Advantage

## Key Terms/Concepts:

- Incumbent- those already holding office
- Challenger- those attempting to defeat the incumbent

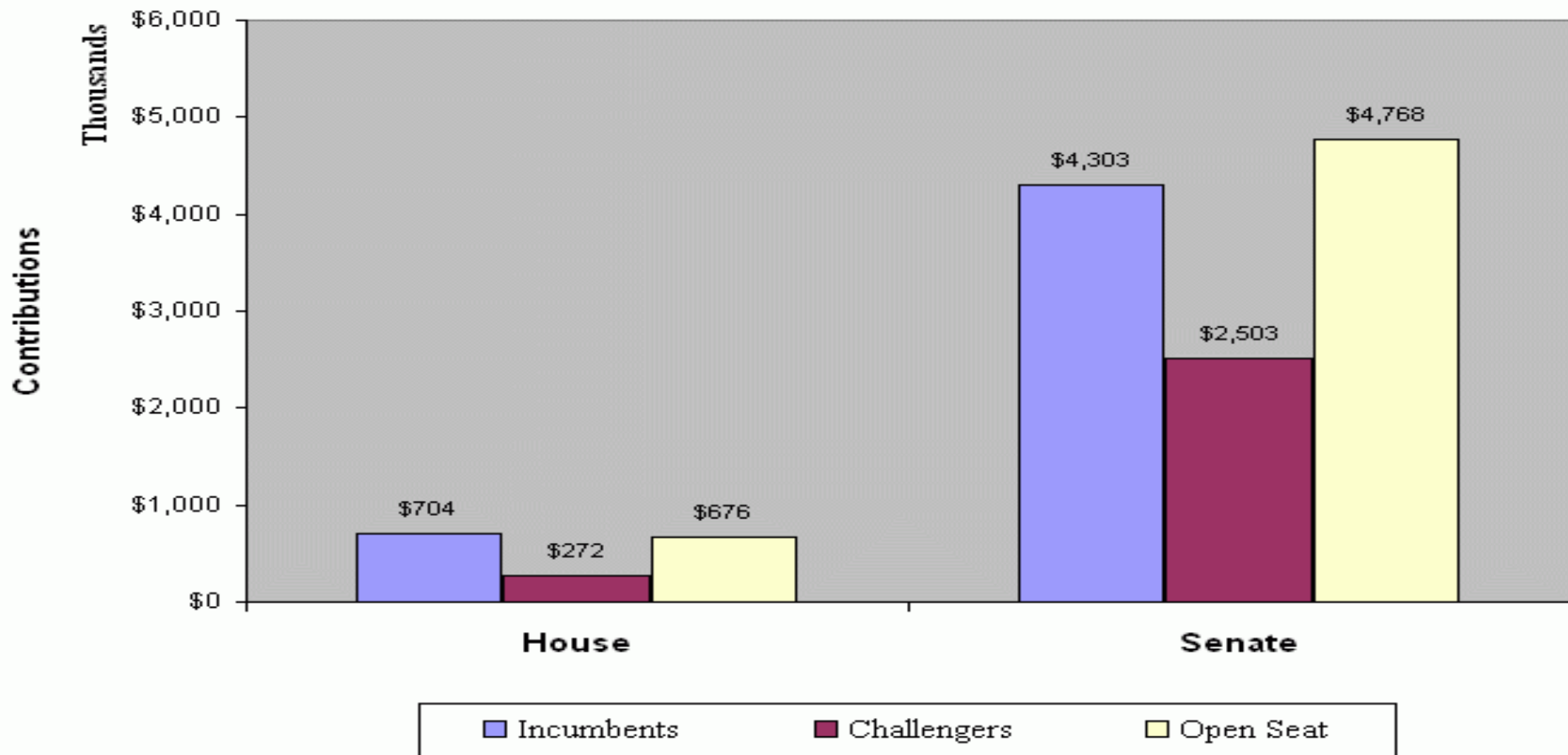
**FIGURE 12.1**

The Incumbency Factor in Congressional Elections



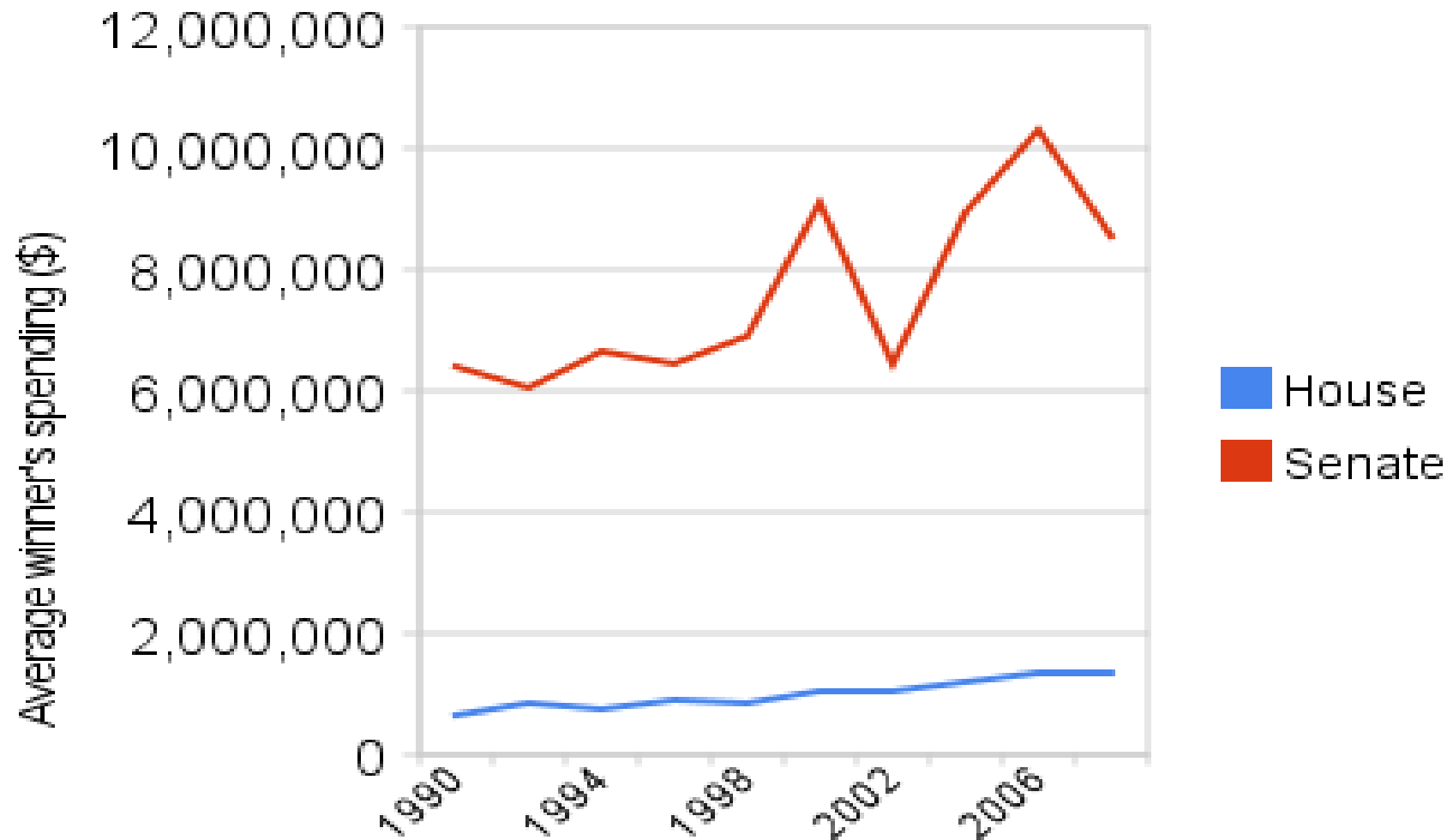
# Campaign Contributions Congressional Candidates

**Campaign Contributions to Congressional Candidates  
1992 to 2002  
(in 1992 Dollars)**



# Campaign Spending Congressional Candidates

Average Spending on Winning Congressional Campaigns, 1990-2008



# Incumbent Advantage

- **Advertising:**
  - The goal is to be visible to your constituents
  - Frequent trips home, use of newsletter, and technology
- **Credit Claiming:**
  - Service to constituents through:
    - **Casework**- activities that help constituents as individuals, particularly by cutting through “red tape” to get people what they think they have the right to get
    - **Earmarks**- direct funding to a specific projects
    - **Pork Barrel**- Federal projects, grants, etc. made available in a congressional district or state





# Models of Congressional Representation

## TRUSTEE MODEL

### Aka. Attitudinal View

- Decisions made by elected official using their own personal views

OR

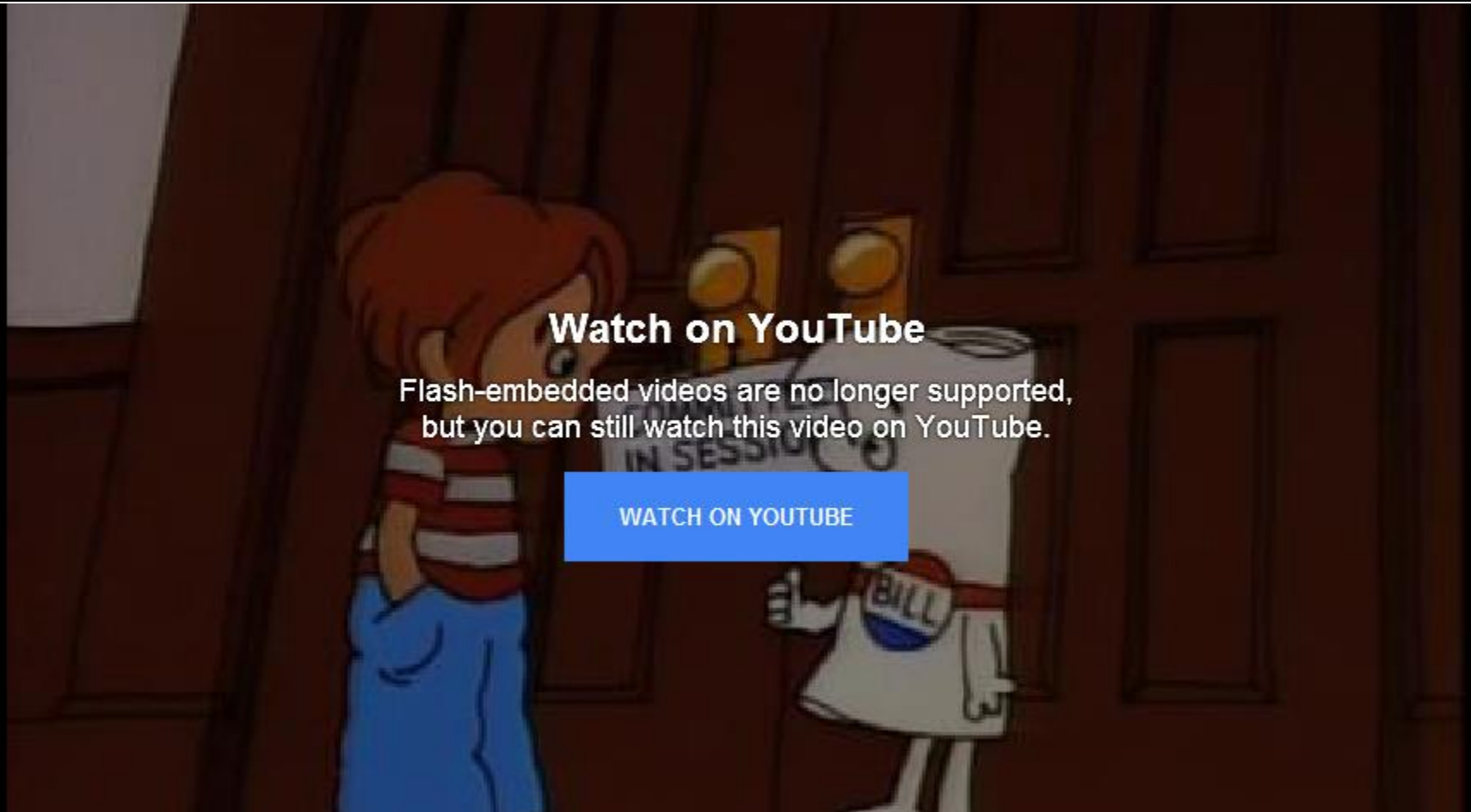
- Decisions made by the elected official based on the public good
- Decisions **NOT** made on the basis of constituents' views

## DELEGATE MODEL

### Aka. Representational View

- Decisions made by the elected official mirror the constituents' views
- Intended to best represent constituents' views, or do what voters tell them to do

# How a bill becomes a law...



- <https://www.youtube.com/v/FFroMQlKiag>
- As you watch, draw a flow chart of the process of how a bill becomes a law

# Congressional Leadership

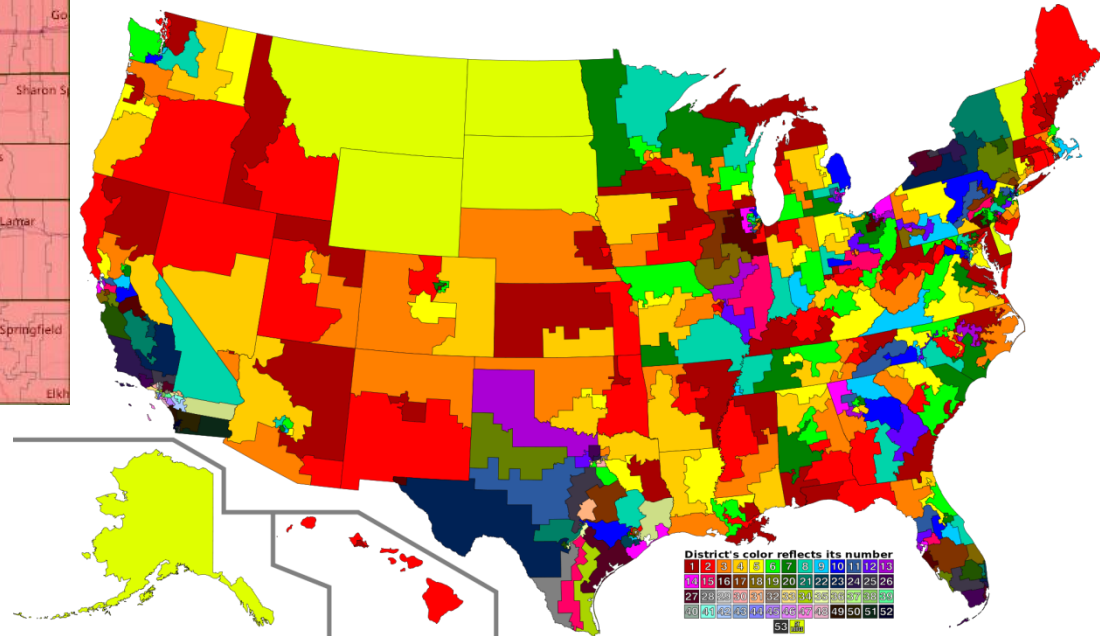
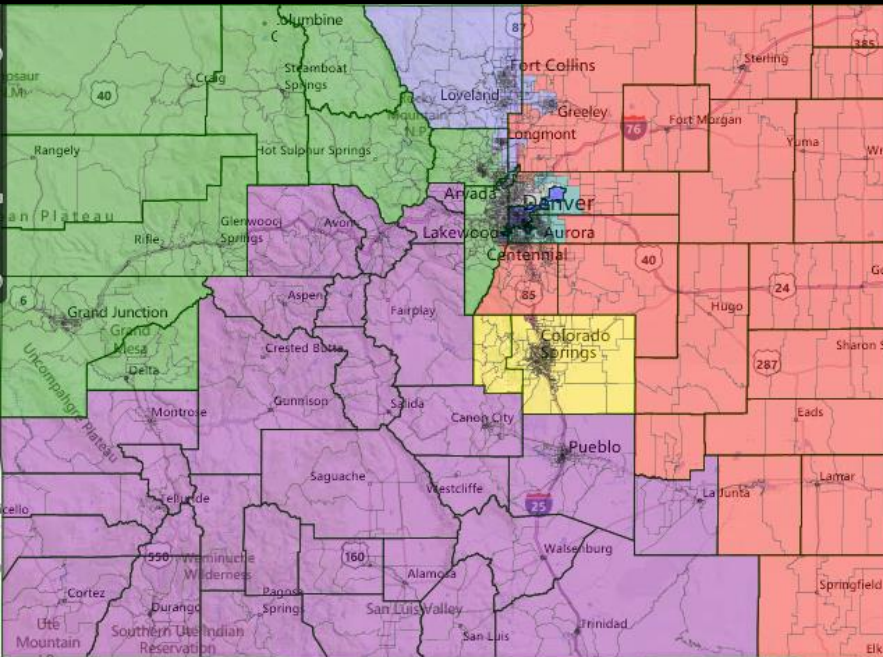
## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- **Speaker**
  - Paul Ryan (R-WI)
- **Majority Leader**
  - Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
- **Majority Whip**
  - Steve Scalise (R-LA)
- **Minority Leader**
  - Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
- **Minority Whip**
  - Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

## SENATE

- **President Pro Tempore**
  - Orin Hatch (R-UT)
- **Majority Leader**
  - Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- **Assistant Majority Leader**
  - AKA Majority Whip
  - John Cornyn (R-TX)
- **Minority Leader**
  - Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
- **Assistant Minority Leader**
  - AKA Minority Whip
  - Dick Durbin (D-IL)

# Electoral Geography



## Territorial Representation

- A system wherein each representative is elected from a territorially defined district
  - Senate- Equal representation; 2 reps. per state
  - House of Representatives- # of reps. based upon population

# Reapportionment



## Reapportionment

- Process by which representative districts are switched according to population shifts
  - Each district encompasses approximately the same number



# Electoral Geography



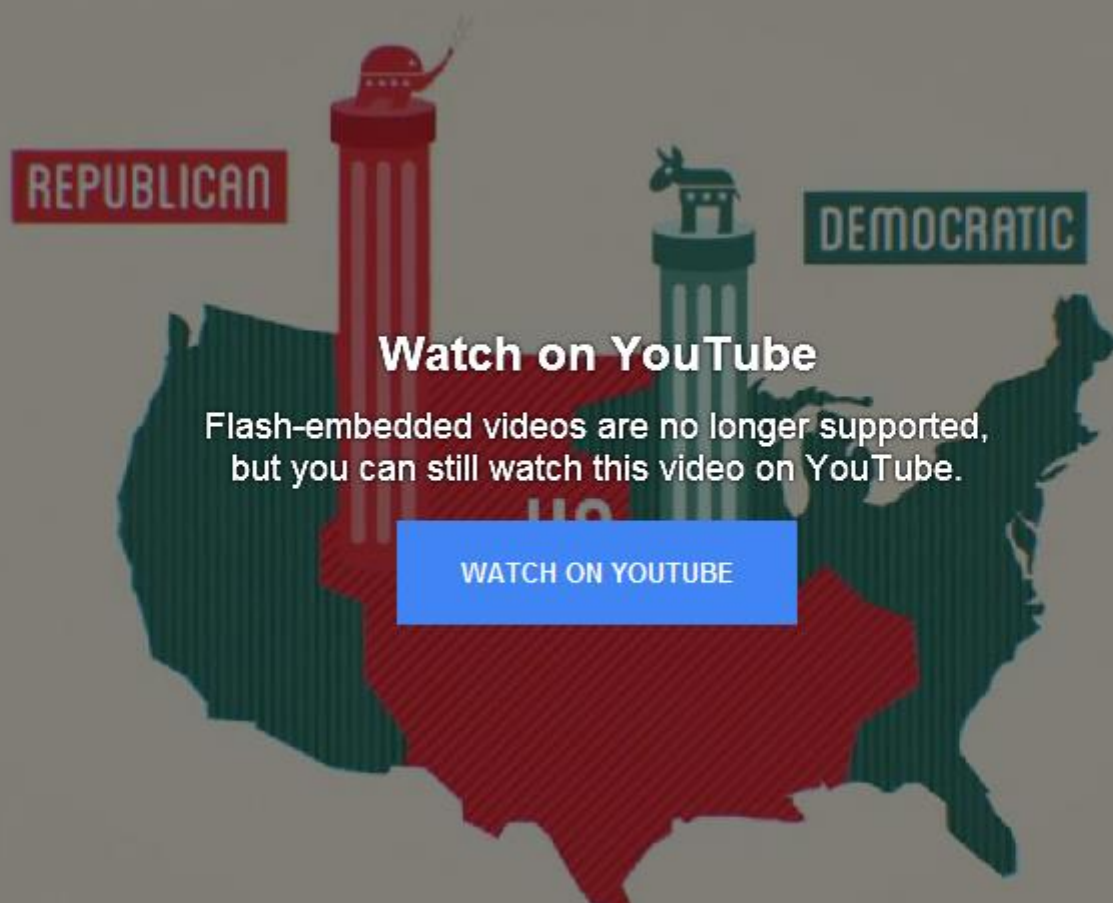
## Majority-Minority Districts

- Representative districts in which the majority of that district's population is from a minority group

## Gerrymandering

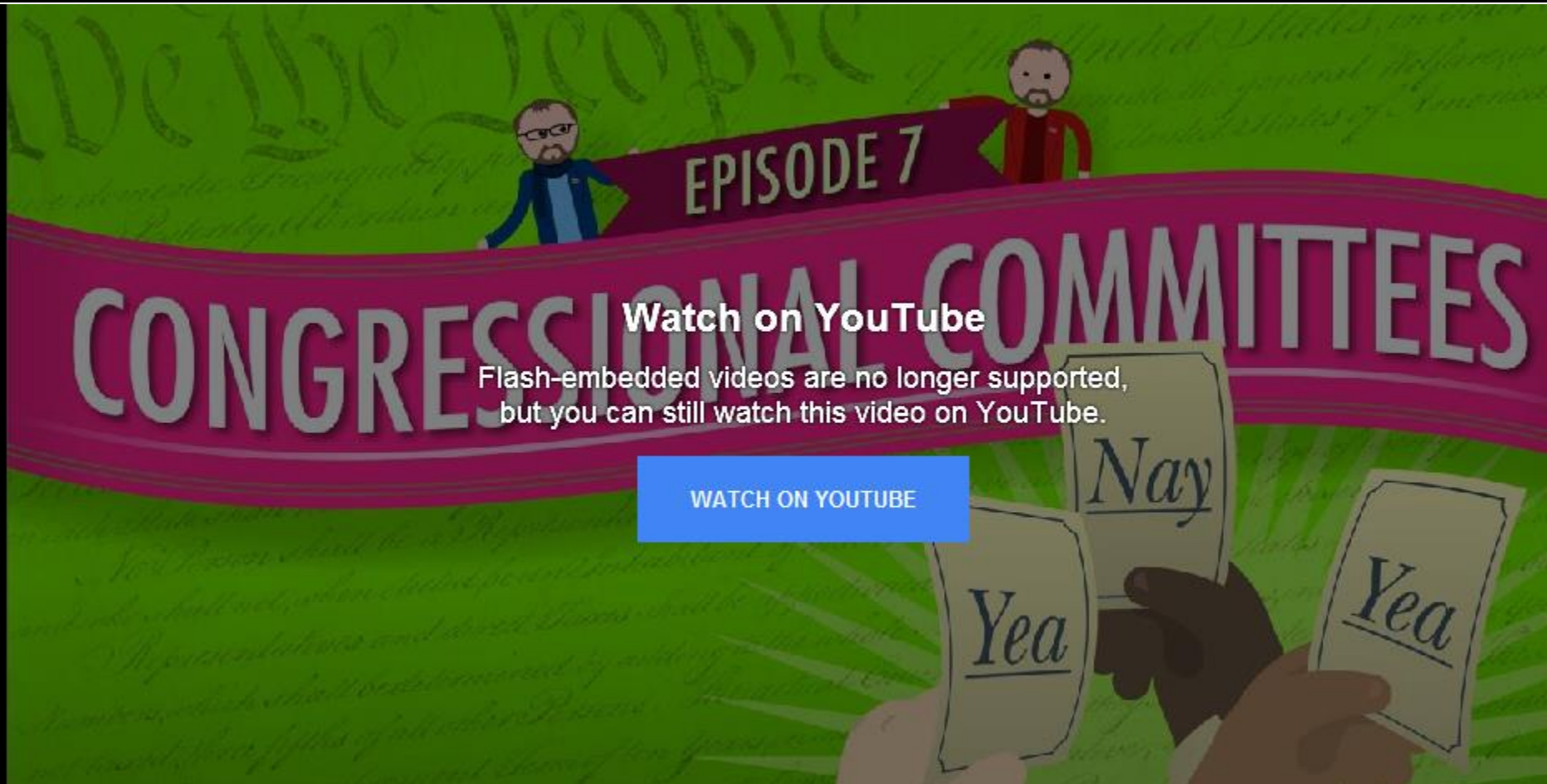
- to divide (a geographic area) into voting districts so as to give unfair advantage to one party in elections

# Understanding Gerrymandering



- Note the pros and cons of gerrymandering in political geography.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcUDBgYodIE>

# Congressional Committees



- Take notes on each type of Congressional committee and their purpose.  
<https://www.youtube.com/v/evLR9oDx7gM>



# Committee System

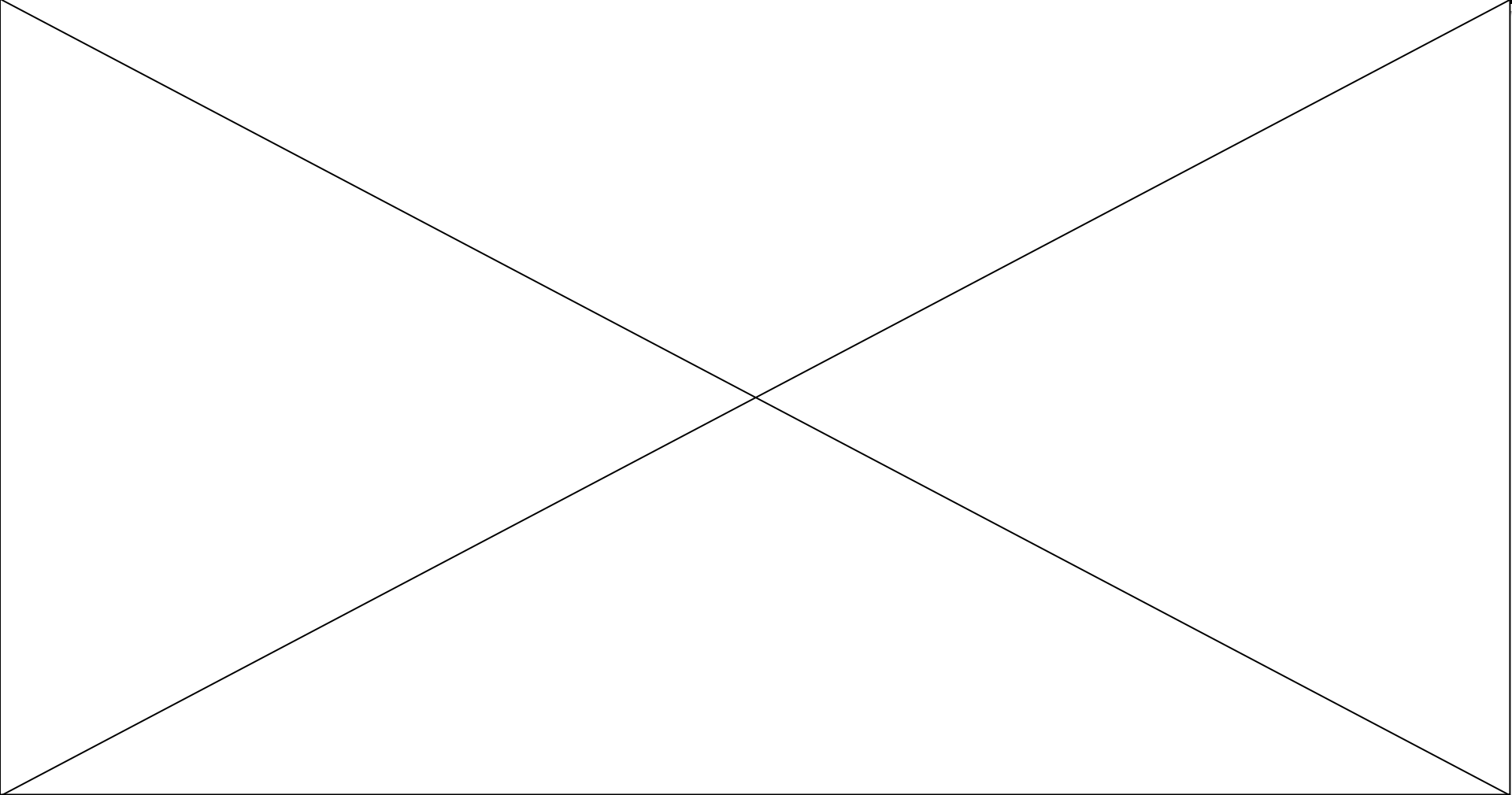
- Committees/Subcommittees
  - Control the congressional agenda and guide legislation
- Types of committees:
  - House Rules Committee
  - Standing committees
  - Joint committees
  - Conference committees
  - Select committees



# House Rules Committee

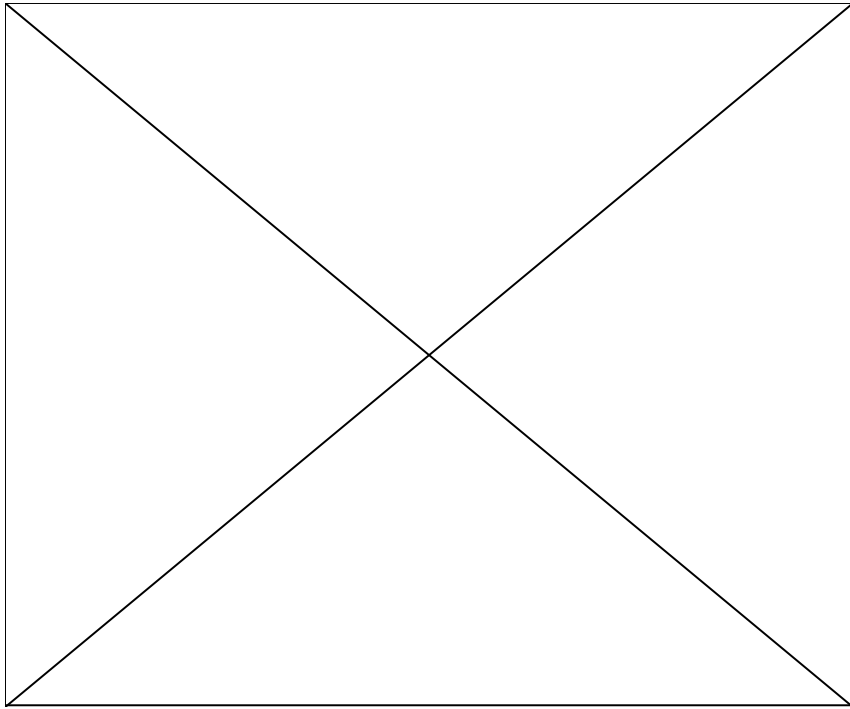
- The committee in the House of Representatives that reviews most bills coming from a House Committee before they go to the full House
  - Committee members appointed by Speaker of the House
- Serves as a traffic cop for bills:
  - Schedules it on the calendar
  - Allots time for debate
  - Sometimes specifies kinds of amendments that may be offered
  - Sometimes prohibits amendments and influence of the minority

# Congressional Earmarks & Pork Barrel Spending



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqRxNnjUEtM>

# House Ways & Means Committee



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNBq9CZ8nb4>

- The House of Representatives committee that, along with the Senate Finance Committee, writes the tax codes, subject to the approval of Congress as a whole
- Considered one of the most important committees in Congress:
  - Has heavy influence over budgetary process
  - Majority party in the House of Representatives has the most influence over this process

# Standing Committees

## Standing Committees

- Separate subject-matter committees in each house of Congress that handle bills in different policy areas

Standing Committees House of Representatives		Standing Committees Senate	
1.	Agriculture	1.	Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
2.	Appropriations *	2.	Appropriations
3.	Armed Services	3.	Armed Services
4.	Budget	4.	Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
5.	Education and the Workforce	5.	Budget
6.	Energy and Commerce	6.	Commerce, Science and Transportation
7.	Ethics	7.	Energy and Natural Resources
8.	Financial Service	8.	Environment and Public Works
9.	Foreign Affairs	9.	Finance
10.	Homeland Security	10.	Foreign Relations
11.	House Administration	11.	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
12.	Judiciary	12.	Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
13.	Natural Resources	13.	Judiciary
14.	Oversight and Government Reform	14.	Rules and Administration
15.	Rules *	15.	Small Business and Entrepreneurship
16.	Science, Space and Technology	16.	Veterans Affairs
17.	Small Business		
18.	Transportation and Infrastructure		
19.	Veterans Affairs		
20.	Ways and Means *		

# Joint Committees

## Joint Committees

- Congressional committees on a few subject-matter areas with membership drawn from both houses

### Examples from 114<sup>th</sup>:

- Joint Economic Committee
  - Employment Act of 1946; responsible for reporting on current economic conditions of US & make suggestions for improvement
- Joint Committee on the Library
  - Devoted to the affairs and administration of the Library of Congress
- Joint Committee on Printing
  - Oversees the printing and binding of documents produced for and by the federal government

# Joint Committees

## Joint Committees

- Congressional committees on a few subject-matter areas with membership drawn from both houses

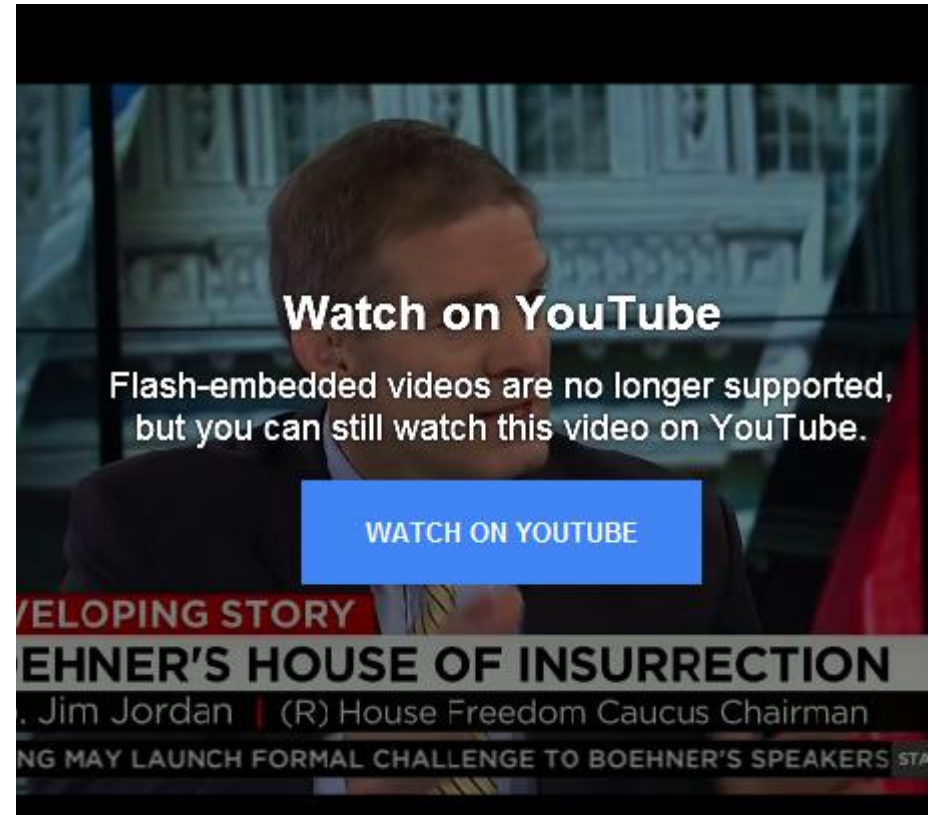
### Examples from 114<sup>th</sup>:

- Joint Committee on Taxation
  - Investigate the operation, effects, and administration of internal revenue taxes
  - Investigate measures and methods for simplification of taxes
  - Make reports on the results of those investigations and studies and make recommendations
  - Review any proposed refund or credit of taxes in excess of \$2 million

# Conference Committees

## Conference Committees

- Congressional committees formed when the Senate and the House pass a particular bill in different forms
- Party leadership appoints members from each house to iron out the differences and bring back a single bill



[https://www.youtube.com/v/w5zoL\\_4QrBo](https://www.youtube.com/v/w5zoL_4QrBo)



# Select Committees

## Select Committees

- Temporary or permanent with a focused responsibility
- Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- Temporary House Select Comm. on Benghazi



# The Committees at Work: Legislation and Oversight

- Legislation
  - Creation and passing of laws
- Legislative oversight
  - Monitoring of the bureaucracy and its administration of policy
  - Performed namely through hearings
- Serving on a committee
  - Members want committee assignments that will help them get reelected, gain influence, and make policy.
- Committee chairs
  - Most influential in how policies get to and through the policy agenda
    - Seniority System

# Congressional Staff

## ■ Personal staff

- Work for the member, mainly providing constituent service, but help with legislation too

## ■ Committee staff

- Organize hearings, research and write legislation, target of lobbyists

## ■ Staff Agencies

- CRS – Congressional Research Service
  - Provides congressmen with needed information; prepares bill summaries; etc.
- GAO – Government Accountability Office
  - Helps with legislative oversight
- CBO – Congressional Budget Office
  - Analyze president's budget



# Understanding Congress

## Congress and Democracy

- Representation versus Effectiveness
  - Supporters claim that Congress:
    - is a forum in which many interests compete for policy
    - is decentralized, so there is no oligarchy to prevent comprehensive action
  - Critics argue that Congress:
    - is responsive to so many interests that policy is uncoordinated, fragmented, and decentralized
    - is so representative that it is incapable of taking decisive action to deal with difficult problems

# Congressional Leadership/Committee Research

## Working with a partner:

- Complete your graphic organizer by researching information on Congressional leadership positions and committees
- Make sure that you are including details on each to ensure that you can fully understand the roles/responsibilities of each position/committee
- When you are finished, discuss with your partner the effectiveness of these structures in getting the people's interests on the policy agenda:
  - Construct a thesis (2-3 categories) that argues the following:

*Evaluate the effectiveness of the structure of Congress in addressing the needs of the people.*