

Resources on Congress

Almanac of American Politics. Michael Barone and Chuck McCutcheon. National Journal Group. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2011 (covers the 112th Congress).

Provides in-depth biographies of governors and members of Congress. Includes political profiles of the fifty states, election summaries and statistics, group ratings, and key votes. Similar to CQ's *Politics in America* (see entry), but a better source for state political information.

The Almanac of the Unelected: Staff of the U.S. Congress. Bernan Press. Published annually.

Provides one-page biographies of selected House and Senate committee staff—about 700 staffers in all. The biographies discuss the staffers' areas of expertise and legislative areas, and include brief biographical information and photographs. Arranged by committees and indexed by personal names. See also the entry for the *Congressional Staff Directory*.

American Congressional Dictionary, 3rd ed. Walter Kravitz. CQ Press. 2001.

Provides definitions of almost 900 congressional terms; most of the terms deal with congressional procedure and rules. Many of the explanations discuss the difference in procedure and terminology between the House and Senate, and the historical origins of the term are often explained.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005. U.S. Government Printing Office. 2005. House Document 108-222. Also available online, 1774-present.

Provides paragraph-long biographies for each member of Congress from 1774 through January 3, 2005. Lists basic biographical information, committee chairmanships, leadership and party positions, and key biographical works about members (when available). Also provides a listing of cabinet members and of each congressional delegation (in state order) since 1789. The print edition is complemented and enhanced by a continuously updated [Web edition](#).

Committees in the U.S. Congress. 7 vols. CQ Press. 1993, 2002 and 2010.

In 1993 CQ published *Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1947-1992* (a 2-volume set). In 2002 *Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1789-1946* (a 4-volume set) was released. In 2010 *Committees in U.S. Congress, 1993-2010* was released. These books provide lists of House and Senate committee memberships by the name of the committee and by the name of the member of Congress. They indicate committee chairmen and ranking members as well as any changes to the committee membership during a committee. Although these volumes do *not* contain subcommittee information, they are an incredible resource. (Only the volume covering 1993-2010 is currently in print.)

Congress A to Z: A Ready Reference Encyclopedia, 5th ed. CQ Press. 2008.

A condensed, simplified version of ***Guide to Congress*** (see entry) that has been broken out in encyclopedia-style entries. Entries are written at a high-school level.

Congress and the Nation. 12 vols. CQ Press. Published every four years; most recent edition published in 2010.

Volume I	1945-1964
Volume II	1965-1968
Volume III	1969-1972
Volume IV	1973-1976
Volume V	1977-1980
Volume VI	1981-1984
Volume VII	1985-1988
Volume VIII	1989-1992
Volume IX	1993-1996
Volume X	1997-2001
Volume XI	2001-2004
Volume XII	2005-2008

Provides overviews and summaries of key issues and legislative proposals, organized chronologically within subject chapters. Volume II through the current volume correspond to the four years of a presidential administration. An excellent one-stop source for historical overviews, names, dates, and issues. A separately bound cumulative index covers Volumes V through X (1977 to 2001). See also the entries for ***CQ Weekly*** and ***CQ Almanac***.

Congressional Digest. Congressional Digest Corp. Published ten times a year.

Provides a pro and con discussion of key issues, such as drunk driving, Puerto Rico political status, FDA reform, and the United Nations. Each issue is dedicated to a single topic; a question is posed (“Should Congress accept the Postal Service’s plan to avoid insolvency?”) and answered, often by members of Congress.

Congressional Directory. U.S. Government Printing Office. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2011 (covers the 112th Congress). Senate Publication 112-12. Also available [online](#), 105th Congress-present.

The official biographical resource of the U.S. Congress. Contains biographies of members of Congress and the judiciary; committee membership rosters; directory information for congressional offices, the executive branch and independent agencies, the judiciary, diplomatic offices, and international organizations; historical and statistical data; congressional district maps; and press gallery information. This may be the best single volume for the money, although it is not updated like the ***Congressional Yellow Book*** and the ***Congressional Staff Directory*** (see entries). The ***United States Government Manual*** may be considered the executive branch counterpart.

Congressional Information Service (CIS)

CIS provides the most complete indices to congressional materials. The indices cover congressional hearings (published and unpublished) and witnesses, congressional reports, documents, committee prints, and treaties. Indices from 1970 on include abstracts of each document that summarize the content. CIS also offers a microfiche collection of the full text of congressional materials dating back to 1789. This is an excellent (and expensive) series and is vital in identifying and locating congressional materials.

Congressional Practice and Procedure: A Reference, Research, and Legislative Guide.

Charles Tiefer. Greenwood Press. 1989.

An extremely useful and detailed look at congressional practices and procedures, from introduction of bills to conference committees. One of the most helpful aspects of this book is the extensive footnotes to official, academic, and journalistic sources, which provide a terrific starting point for further research.

***Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*, 8th ed. Walter J. Oleszek. CQ Press. 2011.**

A thorough examination of the ways in which congressional rules, procedures, and traditions affect the legislative process. The narrative is complemented by figures, tables, and text boxes that illustrate, summarize, or elaborate upon key concepts. The most recent edition addresses several procedural and political developments shaping contemporary lawmaking such as the return of fiscal deficits, heightened partisanship, and new rules and procedures.

Congressional Record. U.S. Government Printing Office. Published daily when one or both houses of Congress are in session. Available in a [variety of formats](#).

The ***Congressional Record*** is the edited transcript of House and Senate proceedings. At the back of each ***Record*** is the *Daily Digest*, which is an index to the contents of the ***Record***. The *Daily Digest* outlines chamber action (including bills introduced, reports filed, and bills considered) and provides page numbers to where in the ***Record*** these actions can be found. The *Daily Digest* also provides summaries of what happened in committee hearings and markups (and includes witness names and bill numbers) and lists committee meetings for the following day. Subject and bill number indexes are issued every two weeks throughout the year; an annual index is printed several years later.

Congressional Roll Call. CQ Press. Published annually.

A compilation of all House and Senate roll-call votes. Contains a short description of each vote, the party breakdown of the vote, and each member's vote. There is a subject index, a summary of key votes, and interest group ratings and presidential support scores.

Congressional Staff Directory. CQ Press. Published three times a year in the spring, summer, and fall.

Issued since 1959, the *Congressional Staff Directory* provides directory information for members' Washington and home offices, committee assignments, member biographies, congressional district data, and, perhaps most importantly, brief biographies of more than 3,000 staff. The *Almanac of the Unelected* (see entry) has lengthier biographies with photographs, but it is far more selective than the *Congressional Staff Directory*.

Congressional Yellow Book. Leadership Directories. Published quarterly.

One of the better directories of member and committee office information. In addition to directory information, the book provides a staffer's job title, area of expertise, and brief biographies; and provides listings for task forces, caucuses, party organizations, and congressional support agencies. Another plus is this directory is published quarterly. See also the entry for the *Congressional Staff Directory* and the *Congressional Directory*.

Congressional Quarterly Almanac. CQ Press. Published annually.

The *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* is arranged in topical chapter format, providing an overview of the year's issues and political action. This annual volume does not replace the year's *CQ Weekly* issues (see entry), which contain far more detail than the condensed *Almanac* articles. The *Almanac* is indexed by subject and roll call votes, and contains vote charts with individual voting records for all House and Senate roll call votes. See also the entry for *Congress and the Nation*.

CQ Today. Congressional Quarterly. Published on days when Congress is in session.

A newsletter issued daily when Congress is in session. Provides excellent summaries of Capitol Hill legislative and political activities. Also lists future committee schedules and other congressionally-related meetings and seminars.

CQ Weekly. Congressional Quarterly. Published weekly, less frequently during congressional recesses.

The "bible" on Congress since 1945, this weekly magazine provides unbiased articles on key legislative issues, organizational issues, personalities on Capitol Hill, and politics and elections. Unlike newspapers, the *CQ Weekly* provides bill numbers, describes committee and floor vote action and amendments, and provides floor vote tallies that show how each member of Congress voted that week. A subject and roll call index is issued quarterly and cumulated annually. See also the entries for *CQ Almanac* and *Congress and the Nation*.

The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress. 4 vols. Donald C. Bacon, Roger H. Davidson, and Morton Keller, editors. Simon & Schuster Academic Reference. 1995. (Out of print.)

Contains more than 1,000 articles written by congressional scholars covering topics such as the constitutional powers of Congress, the history of Congress, legislative terms and procedures, Congress' relationship with the executive and judicial branches, elections and reapportionment, congressional culture and mores, and the Capitol and its surroundings. Major congressional personalities and landmark laws are profiled. An excellent resource that is particularly useful for finding summaries of major pieces of legislation and for the legislative accomplishments of many members of Congress. See also the entry for *Guide to Congress*.

Facts About the Congress. Stephen G. Christianson. H.W. Wilson Company. 1996.

Highlights the major achievements and developments of each Congress from the first session of the first Congress in 1789 through the first session of the 104th Congress (1995). Each chapter covers a single Congress, using a consistent structure to present dates of congressional sessions, gains and losses of seats by major parties, rosters of congressional leadership, and chronologies for each Congress, major legislation passed and significant legislation that failed to pass, nomination statistics, and a handful of key votes.

Guide to Congress, 6th ed. 2 vols. CQ Press. 2008.

Covers the history, development, powers, politics, bureaucracy, and procedures of Congress. Well documented, well organized, and extremely detailed. See also the entry for *The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress*.

The Hill. Capitol Hill Publishing. Published Monday through Thursday when Congress is in session; less frequently during congressional recesses.

A weekly newspaper on the politics and personalities of Capitol Hill. The articles cover a wide range of political issues and local Capitol Hill news. Published since September 1994, *The Hill* covers much the same turf as *Roll Call* (see entry).

Historical Almanac of the United States Senate: A Series of "Bicentennial Minutes" Presented to the Senate During the 100th Congress. Senator Bob Dole. U.S. Government Printing Office. 1989. Senate Document 100-35. (Out of print.)

A series of short speeches delivered by Senator Dole to commemorate the Senate's bicentennial. The speeches cover the origins of certain Senate practices and dramatic occurrences in the Senate's past and are arranged in chronological order. The book is very useful for a brief overview of an important historical event or individual connected to the Senate. See also the entry for Senator Byrd's series, *The Senate: 1789-1992*.

History of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1994. George B. Galloway. U.S. Government Printing Office. 1994. House Document 103-324. (Out of print.)

One of several competent histories of the development of the House.

House Rules and Manual. U.S. Government Printing Office. 2011. House Document 111-157. Also available [online](#), 104th Congress-present. Contains the fundamental source material for parliamentary procedure in the House.

How to Research Congress. Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert. CQ Press. 1996. (Out of print.)

Describes primary and secondary resources for researching Congress, including almanacs, bibliographical directories, encyclopedias, indexes, online services, journals, and newspapers.

Impeachable Offenses: A Documentary History from 1787 to the Present. Emily Field Van Tassel and Paul Finkelman. CQ Press. 1999.

Examines the proceedings and precedents for all federal impeachments (members of Congress, the judiciary, the cabinet, and president). Using excerpts from major primary sources, the authors evaluate what has and has not constituted an impeachable offense, and they set each case in the historical context of its time, provide constitutional analysis, trace the evolution of impeachment, and outline the Senate's trial procedures. Censure is also discussed.

Landmark Documents on the U.S. Congress. Raymond W. Smock. CQ Press. 1999.

A collection of 190 primary source documents, ranging over time from 1787 to 1998, that focus on the history, development, reform efforts, and procedures of Congress.

Landmark Legislation, 1774-2002: Major U.S. Acts and Treaties. Stephen W. Stathis. CQ Press. 2003.

Offers brief historical background on the 1st through the 107th Congresses and provides one paragraph summaries of the major acts in each Congress. Summaries include the dates each act became law, statutory citations, and public law numbers. Includes a topical finders guide to help readers track legislation by major policy area. See also ***Major Acts of Congress.***

Major Acts of Congress. 3 vols. Brian K. Landsberg, editor. Thomson Gale. 2004

A three-volume work containing multi-page entries on 262 acts selected for historical significance, contemporary impact, and contribution to the understanding of American government. The entries are arranged alphabetically by the name of the act. Additional features include a topical outline, timeline, and a bibliography for each entry. See also ***Landmark Legislation, 1774-2002.***

National Journal. National Journal Group. Published weekly.

One of the two weekly magazines (along with ***CQ Weekly***) that covers legislative and executive branch actions. The focus is primarily on major policy issues before federal agencies and the response of Congress to those issues.

Politics in America. CQ Press. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2011 (covers the 112th Congress).

Provides in-depth biographies of each member of Congress, focusing on the member's legislative priorities and personal style and achievements. Includes state and congressional district profiles, key votes, campaign finance data, interest group ratings, and election data. Similar to *Almanac of American Politics* (see entry).

Riddick's Senate Procedure: Precedents and Practices. Floyd M. Riddick and Alan S. Frumin. Senate Document 101-28. Available [online](#). (Out of print.)

A compilation of the rules of the Senate, portions of laws that affect Senate procedure, rulings by the presiding officer, and established practices of the Senate. The book is arranged alphabetically by subject matter and is cross-referenced and indexed. There is an extensive appendix that presents the terminology used by senators and the presiding officer for various purposes.

Roll Call. Roll Call. Published Monday through Thursday when Congress is in session; less frequently during congressional recesses.

Covers the issues, politics, and personalities of Capitol Hill. ***Roll Call*** has evolved from its less-than-distinguished beginnings in the 1950s into a well-respected and often-cited source. See also the entry for ***The Hill***.

The Senate: 1789-1989, Addresses on the History of the United States Senate. 4 vols.

Senator Robert C. Byrd. U.S. Government Printing Office. Senate Document 100-20.

Volume I	Addresses on the United States Senate	1988
Volume II	Addresses on the United States Senate	1991
Volume III	Classic Speeches 1830-1993	1994
Volume IV	Historical Statistics 1789-1992	1993

An extremely valuable set that details the development of the U.S. Senate from its earliest beginnings. The first volume contains 39 addresses given by Senator Byrd covering the Senate's chronological development from 1789 to recent times. The second volume is organized topically, covering the Senate's powers, leadership, organization, setting, and Senator Byrd's career. The third volume contains the full text of important speeches delivered by U.S. senators since 1830. The fourth volume contains a wealth of statistical data on Congress. These volumes will remain the standard history of the U.S. Senate for years to come. (See also the entry for Senator Dole's ***Historical Almanac of the United States Senate***.)

Senate Manual: Containing the Standing Rules, Orders, Laws, and Resolutions Affecting the Business of the United States Senate. Prepared by Matthew McGowan, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. U.S. Government Printing Office. 2011. Senate Document 112-1. Available [online](#), 104th Congress-present.

The bulk of this volume contains the standing rules of the Senate (which are indexed and cross-referenced), and laws relating to the Senate, standing orders of the Senate, regulations for the Senate wing of the Capitol, rules for impeachment trials, and rules for conferences and conference reports. There are also historical documents (such as the U.S. Constitution) and statistical data (such as a list of all senators and presidents pro tempore). If there are changes in the Senate rules during the course of a Congress, the Rules Committee usually issues a revised edition of the rules, published separately as a Senate document. Copies of this volume may be available from the Government Printing Office.

The Senate of the United States: A Bicentennial History. Richard A. Baker. Krieger Publishing. 1988. (Out of print.)

A history of the U.S. Senate that includes excerpts from historical documents and a selected bibliography.

The Senate of the United States: Its History and Practice. 2 vols. George H. Haynes. Russell & Russell. 1938 (reissued in 1960). (Out of print.)

First published in 1938, this two-volume set is a classic study of the historical development of the U.S. Senate.

Senate Procedure. See *Riddick's Senate Procedure.*

Senate Procedure and Practice. Martin B. Gold. Rowman & Littlefield. 2008.

Provides an in-depth discussion of Senate operations, focusing on the ways in which the chamber's business is governed by the standing rules of the Senate, special procedures found in rulemaking statutes, and Senate precedent. Written by a long-time Senate staff member, this book examines floor debates, committee procedures, introduction and consideration of bills and joint resolutions, the amendment process, voting, finalizing legislation, the appropriations and budget processes, and consideration of nominations and treaties.

The United States House of Representatives. James T. Currie. Krieger Publishing. 1988.

A history of the U.S. House of Representatives that includes excerpts from historical documents and a selected bibliography.

Vital Statistics on Congress. Norman J. Ornstein, Thomas E. Mann, and Michael J. Malbin, editors. Brookings Institution. 2008.

This very useful resource pulls together a wide range of statistical information. There are eight broad chapters that cover topics such as congressional workload, elections, committees, voting alignments, and campaign finance.