CQPRESS CONGRESS COLLECTION

INTRODUCTION

When should I use the CQ Press Congress Collection?

Use the **Congress Collection** to:

★ **Find** biographical, political, and electoral data about every member of Congress since the 79th Congress (1945)

★ **Search** through encyclopedic information, statistical data, legislative analysis, and Supreme Court case summaries on the structure and powers of Congress

★ **Compare** "CQ Key Votes" voting records between two or more members

★ **Research** floor votes and find descriptions with vote outcome by political party, roll call vote tallies, the full legislation text, and a state delegation vote map

★ **Analyze** each member and their demographics with interest group scores

PRODUCT TOUR

Let's take a look at the different sections of the collection.

First we'll look at the tools under Policy Analysis & Legislative Votes.

▶ **Policy Analysis & Legislative Votes**

❶ Find Policy Anaylsis & Legislative Votes in the side navigation.

❷ Find Policy Analysis by Topic.

❸ If you look under Health and select Abortion, you will see options for Floor Votes and Legislative Information.

The CQ logo next to a vote in the Floor Votes results indicates a key/important vote as selected by CQ Press editors.

The profile page will give the breakdown of votes, a brief description of the bill, and links to view or export the full Roll Call.

Profile Page

U.S. House Vote, October 13, 2011

Party /	Seats	Yeas	Nays	Other
D	192	15 (7.81%)	170 (88.54%)	7 (3.65%)
R	242	236 (97.52%)	2 (0.83%)	4 (1.65%)
Totals	434	251 (57.83%)	172 (39.63%)	11 (2.53%)

Vote Analysis Tools
View Roll Call
Analyze Voting Behavior
Map It
Link To Full Text

Definitions & Help

Vote Export Tools
Export Vote Total
Export Roll Call
Export Voting Behavior
Add Vote to Data Cart

Learn More About Abortion

◂ **CRS** ▸ Link to CRS Reports on Abortion
▸ Abortion Procedure Ban/Passage. (in Sen.) HR 1122.✓CQ
▸ Labor-HEW Appropriations, Fiscal 1977 (in H.R.) HR 14232✓CQ
▸ Labor-HEW Appropriations, Fiscal 1977 (in Sen.) HR 14232✓CQ
▸ Labor-HEW Appropriations, Fiscal 1977 (in Sen.) HR 14232✓CQ
▸ Partial-Birth Abortion. (in Sen.) HR 1122. ✓CQ

Abortion Funding in Health Care Law –– Passage. HR358 ✓CQ

Passage of the bill that would bar the use of federal funds to purchase insurance plans that cover abortion services. The bill also would require that insurance companies offering plans on state exchanges that cover abortion services also offer identical plans that do not cover abortion services. It also would bar federal agencies and state or local entities that receive funding under the health care overhaul law from discriminating against health care entities that refuse to provide abortions or training related to abortions. Passed 251-172 : R 236-2; D 15-170. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position.

Analyze Voting Behavior will show how specific groups voted, for example, how Roman Catholics voted on this ban.

Map It
This map shows the distribution of votes for a specific vote of Congress. Each state is color coded to indicate the way that the majority of the members of that state's delegation voted. The more intense the color, the larger the percentage of members who voted with the majority. Details on the state delegation's vote can be viewed by moving the mouse over the map. A complete listing of each state's vote record is available by clicking on the state.

Vote map for the U.S. House vote "Abortion Funding in Health Care Law -- Passage"; 112th Congress:

Vote Majority
Yea
Nay
Even Split
(darker colors indicate a larger majority)

Map It will give a visual representation of how members from each state voted.

▸ Compare

Next, let's take a look at the tools under Compare. These are some of the strongest resources on the site.

❶ Select How Often Members Voted Together/Separately under Compare to search two Members and compare how often they voted together or differently.

Voting Alignment Results

Modify Search | New Search | Save Search | EXPORT DATA

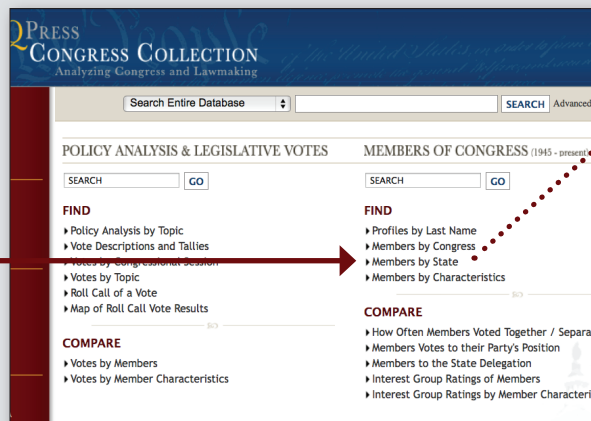**Voting alignment between Obama, Barack and McCain, John**

	CQ Key Votes	Voted	% of Total
	8	Voted together	40.00%
	12	Voted differently	60.00%
Total:	20		

	All Floor Votes	Voted	% of Total
	237	Voted together	41.43%
	335	Voted differently	58.57%
Total:	572		

Here's a comparison of Senators Obama and McCain.

▶ Members of Congress

In this section, you can find lists of members of congress—either by state of Congressional term—and profiles of individual members.

❶ Select Find Members by State to see all Representatives, current or from any Congress dating back to 1945, from a single state with their party affiliation and term.

▶ Interest Group Scores

Interest Group Scores are annual ratings given to members of congress by interest groups based on how closely their voting record supports the goals of the interest group.

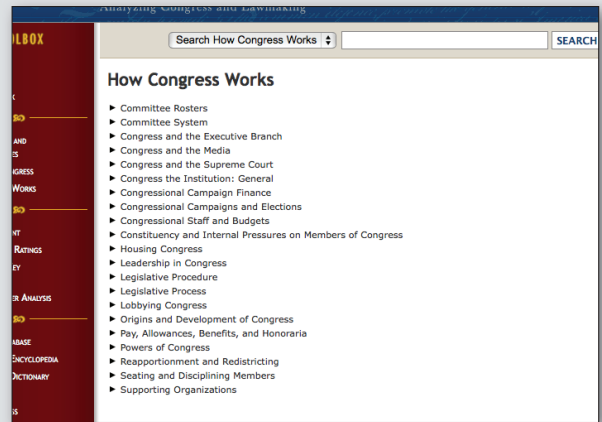**❶** Select Interest Group Ratings from the side bar.

You can search scores by individual Members or groups, such as entire Congress, or all Democratic Senators in a particular Senate **❷**. This table shows ACLU ratings from 2012.

▶ How Congress Works

This section (found in the side bar) includes resources on the rules and procedures governing Congress, including committees, lobbying, pay and expenses, and Congressional Powers.

SAMPLE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The Congress Collection has the data and information you need to get started on assignments such as the following from a course on The U.S. Congress.

YOUR LEGISLATIVE ISSUE

Pick an issue you're passionate about! Pick an issue you don't understand! Pick an issue you hate! It's (almost) entirely up to you. The only requirement is that you have to pick a House Resolution in the 112th Congress that has been subject to at least one non-unanimous roll call vote. Over the course of the semester you'll be required to complete four legislative issue assignments in which you'll be expected to research one small part of your bill's legislative process to submit and discuss in section.

The legislative issue assignments will include questions such as:

- What was the vote breakdown?
- Was the vote partisan?
- How many members crossed party lines?
- What are the policy consequences of the legislation?
- What stage of the legislative process is it currently in?
- Who lobbied on the issue?

Getting Started

❶ Under Policy Analysis and Legislative Votes, go to Votes by Topic to find votes related to your topic of choice. As an example, we'll use the recent votes on NSA surveillance as our legislative issue

❷ Select National Security, then Intelligence, Terrorism, and Counterterrorism, and you will find a CQ Key Vote from July 2013 called Fiscal 2014 Defense Appropriations—NSA Phone Record Collection. HR2397

❸ You can see right away that this was not a unanimous roll call vote, nor was it a strictly partisan vote

U.S. House Vote, July 24, 2013

Party /	Seats	Yeas	Nays	Other
D	200	111 (55.50%)	83 (41.50%)	6 (3.00%)
R	234	94 (40.17%)	134 (57.26%)	6 (2.56%)
Totals	434	205 (47.24%)	217 (50.00%)	12 (2.76%)

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Learn More About Defense Budget
‹ CRS › Link to CRS Reports on Defense Economics

▸ Defense Authorization, Fiscal Year 1988
▸ Defense Authorization, Fiscal Year 1989
▸ Defense Authorization, Fiscal Year 1990
▸ Defense Authorization, Fiscal Year 1991
▸ Military Procurement Authorization (in Sen.) HR 17123 ✓CQ

Learn More About FY2014 Budget Development

▸ Fiscal 2014 Budget Agreement --

Dig Deeper

❶ Use the Vote Analysis tool to take a more granular look at the vote, such as by political party or military service to see if there is a difference

❷ All data tables can be downloaded into Excel for further analysis

❸ Read the full text of the bill and find related information on the right-hand sidebar

SAMPLE SEARCHES

"gun control"

This is the most popular search term on the site. Sort the results by most recent first to see the many floor votes in the past few years related to gun control. Further down you'll also find legislative analysis and primary source documents. You can also sort by document type.

"affordable care act"

Another of the five top search terms, this will again pull dozens of floor votes, as well as other related content.

Votes by Member Characteristics

This section will allow you to see segments of a vote based on legislator characteristics—for example, you can see how women voted on a measure to expand required background checks for gun purchases.

Under Compare, select Votes by Member Characteristics. ❶ Select the 113th Congress, then the ❷ 4/17/13 vote on Gun Policy Revisions—Background Checks. Scroll down and select ❸ Female, then hit the button to Analyze

This will give you a table of all the female members and their votes on this measure. Export it to Excel to tally the yeas and nays, then you can export the full roll call vote to analyze if a person's gender affected the way they approached this gun control measure

Member Profiles

Select Member Profiles to see biographical info on Representatives and Senators.

- Search by last name and select K, then click on Edward M. Kennedy

- Along with a bio, these profile pages also link out to their voting record and interest group scores

Interest Group Ratings

- Go to the Interest Group Ratings page, then in the second section, Find Ratings Based on Member Demographics, select the American Civil Liberties Union under Interest Group and 2012 under Year

- This will give you every Congress Member's rating—you can export to Excel to take an average

- Repeat the above, but select Democrat under party as well. Now you can compare the overall average to the Democrats' average, and see that the Democrats generally have higher scores