

Chapter 8: Political Polarization in Congress and Changing Voting Alignments

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Table 8-1 Presidential Victories on Votes in Congress, 1953-2016

President and year	House and Senate (%)	House (%)	No. of Votes	Senate (%)	No. of Votes	President and year	House and Senate (%)	House (%)	No. of Votes	Senate (%)	No. of Votes
Eisenhower						Reagan					
1953	89.2	91.2	34	87.8	49	1981	82.4	72.4	76	88.3	128
1954	78.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1982	72.4	55.8	77	83.2	119
1955	75.3	63.4	41	84.6	52	1983	67.1	47.6	82	85.9	85
1956	69.7	73.5	34	67.7	65	1984	65.8	52.2	113	85.7	77
1957	68.4	58.3	60	78.9	57	1985	59.9	45.0	80	71.6	102
1958	75.7	74.0	50	76.5	98	1986	56.1	33.3	90	80.7	83
1959	52.0	55.5	54	50.4	121	1987	43.5	33.3	99	56.4	78
1960	65.1	65.0	43	65.1	86	1988	47.4	32.7	104	64.8	88
Average	71.7					Average	61.8				
Kennedy						Bush					
1961	81.4	83.1	65	80.6	124	1989	62.6	50.0	86	73.3	101
1962	85.4	85.0	60	85.6	125	1990	46.8	32.4	108	63.4	93
1963	87.1	83.1	71	89.6	115	1991	54.2	43.0	111	69.0	81
Average	84.6					1992	43.0	37.0	105	53.0	60
Johnson						Average					
1964	87.9	88.5	52	87.6	97		51.7				
1965	93.1	93.8	112	92.6	162	Clinton					
1966	78.9	91.3	103	68.8	125	1993	86.4	87.2	102	85.4	89
1967	78.8	75.6	127	81.2	165	1994	86.4	87.2	78	85.5	62
1968	74.5	83.5	103	68.9	164	1995	36.2	26.3	133	49.0	102
Average	82.6					1996	55.1	53.2	79	57.6	59
Nixon						1997	53.6	38.7	75	71.4	63
1969	73.9	72.3	47	76.4	72	1998	50.6	36.6	82	67.0	72
1970	76.9	84.6	65	71.4	91	1999	37.8	35.4	82	42.2	45
1971	74.8	82.5	57	69.5	82	2000	55.0	49.3	69	65.0	40
1972	66.3	81.1	37	54.3	46	Average	57.6				
1973	50.6	48.0	125	52.4	185	Bush					
1974	59.6	67.9	53	54.2	83	2001	86.7	83.7	43	88.3	77
Average	67.0					2002	87.8	82.5	40	91.4	58
Ford						2003	78.7	87.3	55	74.8	119
1974	58.2	59.3	54	57.4	68	2004	72.6	70.6	34	74.0	50
1975	61.0	50.6	89	71.0	93	2005	78.0	78.3	46	77.8	45
1976	53.8	43.1	51	64.2	53	2006	80.9	85.0	40	78.6	70
Average	57.7					2007	38.3	15.4	117	66.0	97
Carter						2008	47.8	33.8	80	68.5	54
1977	75.4	74.7	79	76.1	88	Average	71.4				
1978	78.3	69.6	112	84.8	151	Obama					
1979	76.8	71.7	145	81.4	161	2009	96.7	94.4	72	98.7	79
1980	75.1	76.9	117	73.3	116	2010	85.8	88.1	42	84.4	64
Average	76.4					2011	57.1	31.6	95	84.3	89
						2012	53.6	19.7	61	79.7	79
						2013	56.7	20.9	86	85.2	108
						2014	68.7	15.2	66	93.1	145
						2015	45.7	14.6	89	82.7	75
						2016	39.3	13.0	54	86.7	30
						Average	63.0				

n.a. = not available

Note: Percentages indicate the number of congressional votes supporting the president divided by the total number of votes on which the president had taken a clear position. The percentages are normalized to eliminate the effects of absences as follows: support = (support)/(support + opposition).

Some data from earlier years/previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.

Source: Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues.

Most Recent Update Source: Presidential Support Tables, CQ Almanac, various years

Table 8-2 Congressional Voting in Support of the President's Position, 1954-2016 (percent)

President and year	House			Senate		
	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans
Eisenhower						
1954	54	n.a.	n.a.	45	n.a.	82
1955	58	n.a.	67	65	n.a.	85
1956	58	n.a.	79	44	n.a.	80
1957	54	n.a.	60	60	n.a.	80
1958	63	n.a.	65	51	n.a.	77
1959	44	n.a.	76	44	n.a.	80
1960	49	n.a.	63	52	n.a.	76
Kennedy						
1961	81	n.a.	41	73	n.a.	42
1962	83	71	47	76	63	48
1963	84	71	36	77	65	52
Johnson						
1964	84	70	42	73	63	52
1965	83	65	46	75	60	55
1966	81	64	45	71	59	53
1967	80	65	51	73	69	63
1968	77	63	59	64	50	57
Nixon						
1969	56	55	65	55	56	74
1970	64	64	79	56	62	74
1971	53	69	79	48	59	76
1972	56	59	74	52	71	77
1973	39	49	67	42	55	70
1974	52	64	71	44	60	65
Ford						
1974	48	52	59	45	55	67
1975	40	48	67	53	67	76
1976	36	52	70	47	61	73
Carter						
1977	69	58	46	77	71	58
1978	67	54	40	74	61	47
1979	70	58	37	75	66	51
1980	71	63	44	71	69	50

Table 8-2 Congressional Voting in Support of the President's Position, 1954-2016 (percent)

President and year	House			Senate		
	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans
Reagan						
1981	46	60	72	52	63	84
1982	43	55	70	46	57	77
1983	30	45	74	45	46	77
1984	37	47	64	45	58	81
1985	31	43	69	36	46	80
1986	26	37	69	39	56	90
1987	26	36	64	38	42	67
1988	27	34	61	51	58	73
Bush						
1989	38	49	72	56	66	84
1990	26	35	65	39	49	72
1991	35	43	74	42	53	83
1992	27	38	75	33	41	75
Clinton						
1993	80	81	39	87	84	30
1994	78	68	49	88	88	44
1995*	75	69	22	81	78	29
1996*	74	70	38	83	75	37
1997	73	68	31	87	84	61
1998	78	72	27	86	84	42
1999	75	70	24	86	84	35
2000	76	68	28	92	88	47
Bush						
2001	32	38	92	67	71	96
2002	33	40	85	73	81	95
2003	27	36	92	52	60	96
2004	31	42	83	63	70	93
2005	24	33	81	41	54	86
2006	32	n.a.	88	55	n.a.	86
2007	8	n.a.	74	40	n.a.	81
2008	17	n.a.	65	36	n.a.	73
Obama						
2009	91	n.a.	28	96	n.a.	52
2010	88	n.a.	31	97	n.a.	44
2011	82	n.a.	23	94	n.a.	55
2012	81	n.a.	19	95	n.a.	50
2013	81	n.a.	16	98	n.a.	42
2014	84	n.a.	12	98	n.a.	58
2015	87	n.a.	13	88	n.a.	59
2016	92	n.a.	8	86	n.a.	48

n.a. = not available

Note: Years marked with an asterisk are calculated using a different methodology than all other years. In all other years, the percentages are normalized to eliminate the effects of absences as follows: support = (support)/(support + opposition). For 1995-96 and 2006-present, the percentages are not normalized, so absences reduce the average score. Updating of this data to match the normalization for other years is in progress.

Source: Presidential Support Tables, CQ Almanac, various issues.

Table 8-3 Party Unity Votes in Congress, 1953-2016 (percentage of all votes)

Year	House	Senate	Year	House	Senate
1953	52.1	51.7	1985	61.0	49.6
1954	38.2	48.0	1986	56.5	52.3
1955	40.8	29.9	1987	63.7	40.7
1956	43.8	53.1	1988	47.0	42.5
1957	59.0	35.5	1989	56.3	35.3
1958	39.8	43.5	1990	49.1	54.3
1959	55.2	47.9	1991	55.1	49.3
1960	52.7	36.7	1992	64.5	53.0
1961	50.0	62.3	1993	65.5	67.1
1962	46.0	41.1	1994	61.8	51.7
1963	48.7	47.2	1995	73.2	68.8
1964	54.9	35.7	1996	56.4	62.4
1965	52.2	41.9	1997	50.4	50.3
1966	41.5	50.2	1998	55.5	55.7
1967	36.3	34.6	1999	47.3	62.8
1968	35.2	32.0	2000	43.2	48.7
1969	31.1	36.3	2001	40.2	55.3
1970	27.1	35.2	2002	43.3	45.5
1971	37.8	41.6	2003	51.7	66.7
1972	27.1	36.5	2004	47.0	52.3
1973	41.8	29.9	2005	49.0	62.6
1974	29.4	44.3	2006	54.5	57.3
1975	48.4	47.8	2007	62.0	60.0
1976	35.9	37.2	2008	53.3	51.6
1977	42.2	42.4	2009	50.9	72.0
1978	33.2	45.2	2010	40.0	78.6
1979	47.3	46.7	2011	75.8	51.1
1980	37.6	45.8	2012	72.8	59.8
1981	37.4	47.8	2013	68.6	69.8
1982	36.4	43.4	2014	72.6	66.7
1983	55.6	43.7	2015	75.1	69.3
1984	47.1	40.0	2016	73.4	46

Note: Data indicate the percentage of all roll call votes on which a majority of voting Democrats opposed a majority of voting Republicans.

Source: Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues.

Most Recent Update Source: Party Unity Tables, CQ Almanac, various issues.

Table 8-4 Party Unity Scores in Congressional Voting, 1954-2016 (percent)

Year	House			Senate		
	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans
1954	80	n.a.	84	77	n.a.	89
1955	84	68	78	82	78	82
1956	80	79	78	80	75	80
1957	79	71	75	79	81	81
1958	77	67	73	82	76	74
1959	85	77	85	76	63	80
1960	75	62	77	73	60	74
1961	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1962	81	n.a.	80	80	n.a.	81
1963	85	n.a.	84	79	n.a.	79
1964	82	n.a.	81	73	n.a.	75
1965	80	55	81	75	55	78
1966	78	55	82	73	52	78
1967	77	53	82	75	59	73
1968	73	48	76	71	57	74
1969	71	47	71	74	53	72
1970	71	52	72	71	49	71
1971	72	48	76	74	56	75
1972	70	44	76	72	43	73
1973	75	55	74	79	52	74
1974	72	51	71	72	41	68
1975	75	53	78	76	48	71
1976	75	52	75	74	46	72
1977	74	55	77	72	48	75
1978	71	53	77	75	54	66
1979	75	60	79	76	62	73
1980	78	64	79	76	64	74
1981	75	57	80	77	64	85
1982	77	62	76	76	62	80
1983	82	67	80	76	70	79
1984	81	68	77	75	61	83
1985	86	76	80	79	68	81
1986	86	76	76	74	59	80
1987	88	78	79	85	80	78
1988	88	81	80	85	78	74
1989	86	77	76	79	69	79
1990	86	78	78	82	75	77
1991	86	78	81	83	73	83
1992	86	79	84	82	70	83

Table 8-4 Party Unity Scores in Congressional Voting, 1954-2016 (percent)

Year	House			Senate		
	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans	All Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans
1993	89	83	87	87	78	86
1994	88	83	87	86	77	81
1995	84	75	93	84	76	91
1996	84	76	90	86	75	91
1997	85	79	91	86	76	88
1998	86	79	89	90	85	88
1999	86	77	88	91	86	90
2000	86	80	90	90	80	91
2001	86	77	94	90	79	90
2002	90	82	93	85	69	88
2003	91	85	95	89	76	95
2004	91	83	93	88	76	93
2005	91	84	93	90	81	90
2006	90	n.a.	91	89	n.a.	87
2007	95	n.a.	90	91	n.a.	84
2008	97	n.a.	92	91	n.a.	87
2009	94	n.a.	89	93	n.a.	87
2010	93	n.a.	94	93	n.a.	92
2011	91	n.a.	94	94	n.a.	88
2012	91	n.a.	93	93	n.a.	83
2013	92	n.a.	95	96	n.a.	89
2014	94	n.a.	95	99	n.a.	90
2015	95	n.a.	94	93	n.a.	91
2016	96	n.a.	96	92	n.a.	86

n.a. = not available
Note: Data show the percentage of members voting with a majority of their party on party unity votes. Some data from earlier years/previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.
Source: Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues.
Most Recent Update Source: Tabulations based on roll call data available from voteview.com

Table 8-5 Conservative Coalition Votes and Victories in Congress, 1957-2000 (percent)

Year	House		Senate	
	Votes	Victories	Votes	Victories
1957	16	81	11	100
1958	15	64	19	86
1959	13	91	19	65
1960	20	35	22	67
1961	30	74	32	48
1962	13	44	15	71
1963	13	67	19	44
1964	11	67	17	47
1965	25	25	24	39
1966	19	32	30	51
1967	22	73	18	54
1968	22	63	25	80
1969	25	71	28	67
1970	17	70	26	64
1971	31	79	28	86
1972	25	79	29	63
1973	25	67	21	54
1974	22	67	30	54
1975	28	52	28	48
1976	17	59	26	58
1977	22	60	29	74
1978	20	57	23	46
1979	21	73	18	65
1980	16	67	20	75
1981	21	88	21	95
1982	16	78	20	90
1983	18	71	12	89
1984	14	75	17	94
1985	13	84	16	93
1986	11	78	20	93
1987	9	88	8	100
1988	8	82	10	97
1989	11	80	12	95
1990	10	74	11	95
1991	9	86	14	95
1992	10	88	14	87
1993	7	98	10	90
1994	7	92	10	72
1995	13	100	9	95
1996	11	100	12	97
1997	9	100	8	92
1998	8	95	3	100
2000	4	41	4	31

Note: Congressional Quarterly stopped compiling this data after 2000. The ideological scores developed by Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal (voteview.com) are used in tables 8-7, 8-8, 8-9, and 8-10.

"Votes" is the percentage of all roll call votes on which a majority of voting southern Democrats and a majority of voting Republicans - the conservative coalition - opposed the stand taken by a majority of voting northern Democrats. "Victories" is the percentage of conservative coalition votes won by the coalition.

Source: Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various years); Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues.

Table 8-6 Votes in Support of the Conservative Coalition, 1959-2000 (percent)

Year	House			Senate		
	Northern Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans	Northern Democrats	Southern Democrats	Republicans
1959	17	85	87	23	69	80
1960	8	66	77	21	77	74
1961	15	69	83	15	74	75
1962	14	65	75	29	77	79
1963	13	70	78	20	73	76
1964	13	72	76	20	78	72
1965	10	69	81	19	71	81
1966	13	69	82	17	75	80
1967	15	75	81	24	76	72
1968	16	77	75	31	77	74
1969	21	79	75	24	77	73
1970	19	79	78	21	74	72
1971	25	76	80	38	80	79
1972	24	75	79	20	78	74
1973	22	69	77	17	74	76
1974	24	72	69	19	79	69
1975	22	69	81	19	79	69
1976	25	72	80	21	73	76
1977	25	68	82	26	75	80
1978	26	68	79	24	70	69
1979	29	70	85	29	75	74
1980	27	69	81	26	72	74
1981	30	75	82	29	76	84
1982	27	73	81	30	76	81
1983	22	68	81	30	69	81
1984	23	68	84	27	74	85
1985	23	67	84	30	72	82
1986	27	70	83	26	70	83
1987	27	71	87	30	70	79
1988	27	67	88	29	72	80
1989	27	68	87	31	69	84
1990	27	69	85	29	70	83
1991	30	69	90	33	71	84
1992	31	67	87	27	67	79
1993	31	63	87	31	70	84
1994	39	58	89	30	69	81
1995	28	57	90	24	68	87
1996	31	63	85	30	66	88
1997	34	65	90	32	73	88
1998	32	63	90	36	76	87
2000	49	45	49	31	58	70

Note: Congressional Quarterly stopped compiling this data after 2000. The ideological scores developed by Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal (voteview.com) are used in tables 8-7, 8-8, 8-9, and 8-10. Data indicate the percentage of conservative coalition votes on which members voted in agreement with the position of the conservative coalition. Conservative coalition votes are those on which a majority of northern Democrats voted against a majority of southern Democrats and Republicans-the conservative coalition. The percentages are normalized to eliminate the effects of not voting as follows: conservative coalition support = (support)/(support + opposition).

Source: Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various years); Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues.

Table 8-7

Average Ideological Positions of House Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965
Agriculture	All members	0.188	0.034	0.092	0.166	0.077	0.079	0.030	0.065	0.049	-0.002
	Democrats	-0.084	-0.123	-0.071	-0.031	-0.141	-0.140	-0.134	-0.124	-0.158	-0.161
	Republicans	0.375	0.301	0.304	0.338	0.352	0.357	0.315	0.348	0.361	0.345
Appropriations	All members	0.144	0.019	0.025	0.164	0.012	0.029	0.019	0.011	-0.004	-0.062
	Democrats	-0.170	-0.196	-0.206	-0.162	-0.217	-0.195	-0.201	-0.210	-0.218	-0.225
	Republicans	0.370	0.342	0.371	0.382	0.356	0.352	0.348	0.330	0.316	0.286
Armed Services	All members	0.131	0.019	0.050	0.098	0.020	0.014	-0.018	0.024	0.045	-0.030
	Democrats	-0.105	-0.189	-0.172	-0.132	-0.169	-0.172	-0.185	-0.153	-0.148	-0.178
	Republicans	0.306	0.323	0.313	0.305	0.243	0.232	0.256	0.257	0.285	0.278
Budget	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
District of Columbia	All members	0.125	0.024	0.055	0.075	0.034	0.029	-0.005	0.010	-0.004	-0.048
	Democrats	-0.119	-0.166	-0.129	-0.129	-0.136	-0.142	-0.158	-0.095	-0.134	-0.159
	Republicans	0.317	0.308	0.271	0.264	0.250	0.246	0.269	0.167	0.191	0.188
Education & the Workforce	All members	0.123	-0.088	0.016	0.014	-0.083	-0.112	-0.151	-0.066	-0.113	-0.189
	Democrats	-0.305	-0.345	-0.280	-0.365	-0.441	-0.440	-0.400	-0.354	-0.397	-0.415
	Republicans	0.408	0.369	0.393	0.365	0.386	0.317	0.348	0.390	0.338	0.285

Table 8-7

Average Ideological Positions of House Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965
Energy and Commerce	All members	0.065	-0.087	0.000	0.042	-0.001	0.028	-0.006	-0.003	-0.021	-0.065
	Democrats	-0.235	-0.321	-0.226	-0.244	-0.211	-0.179	-0.176	-0.181	-0.201	-0.224
	Republicans	0.271	0.253	0.260	0.261	0.254	0.277	0.292	0.270	0.255	0.284
Financial Services	All members	0.106	-0.061	-0.027	0.010	-0.051	-0.058	-0.139	-0.119	-0.124	-0.149
	Democrats	-0.270	-0.366	-0.325	-0.374	-0.354	-0.356	-0.366	-0.369	-0.369	-0.327
	Republicans	0.365	0.382	0.321	0.342	0.344	0.332	0.253	0.255	0.215	0.206
Oversight & Government Reform	All members	0.123	-0.156	-0.036	0.003	-0.035	-0.025	-0.082	-0.088	-0.129	-0.151
	Democrats	-0.248	-0.380	-0.310	-0.366	-0.342	-0.310	-0.296	-0.294	-0.337	-0.352
	Republicans	0.355	0.420	0.362	0.325	0.367	0.347	0.288	0.269	0.200	0.268
Homeland Security	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
House Administration	All members	0.172	-0.097	-0.012	0.106	0.004	0.016	-0.014	0.025	0.013	-0.042
	Democrats	-0.062	-0.183	-0.179	-0.182	-0.196	-0.189	-0.183	-0.193	-0.170	-0.220
	Republicans	0.356	0.340	0.300	0.312	0.258	0.277	0.286	0.353	0.288	0.337
Foreign Affairs	All members	-0.032	-0.071	-0.053	0.019	0.015	-0.019	-0.152	-0.110	-0.066	-0.126
	Democrats	-0.320	-0.297	-0.279	-0.236	-0.199	-0.261	-0.353	-0.294	-0.308	-0.340
	Republicans	0.213	0.196	0.212	0.227	0.257	0.256	0.230	0.172	0.306	0.302

Table 8-7

Average Ideological Positions of House Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965
Judiciary	All members	0.080	-0.006	0.028	0.072	0.008	0.005	-0.048	-0.005	-0.038	-0.115
	Democrats	-0.208	-0.190	-0.176	-0.159	-0.198	-0.196	-0.222	-0.198	-0.233	-0.278
	Republicans	0.310	0.306	0.316	0.260	0.272	0.262	0.283	0.271	0.240	0.239
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	All members	0.039	-0.011	-0.020	0.031	-0.049	-0.008	-0.039	-0.019	-0.052	-0.105
	Democrats	-0.256	-0.199	-0.251	-0.194	-0.296	-0.233	-0.242	-0.236	-0.221	-0.253
	Republicans	0.272	0.271	0.267	0.255	0.256	0.264	0.332	0.324	0.217	0.207
Post Office and Civil Service	All members	0.135	-0.018	-0.009	0.101	0.060	0.037	-0.020	0.088	0.026	-0.086
	Democrats	-0.145	-0.204	-0.249	-0.111	-0.170	-0.206	-0.258	-0.143	-0.284	-0.301
	Republicans	0.322	0.261	0.263	0.281	0.352	0.348	0.363	0.382	0.393	0.371
Natural Resources	All members	0.107	0.020	0.041	0.119	-0.012	-0.006	-0.060	-0.007	0.001	-0.070
	Democrats	-0.181	-0.172	-0.231	-0.113	-0.293	-0.281	-0.293	-0.218	-0.232	-0.253
	Republicans	0.300	0.289	0.381	0.317	0.334	0.328	0.290	0.285	0.318	0.295
Rules	All members	0.245	0.002	0.002	0.190	-0.028	-0.049	-0.004	-0.040	-0.023	-0.047
	Democrats	-0.121	-0.168	-0.176	-0.046	-0.222	-0.221	-0.220	-0.247	-0.246	-0.250
	Republicans	0.429	0.341	0.357	0.308	0.359	0.295	0.429	0.478	0.424	0.359
Science, Space & Technology	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.095	-0.075	-0.040	-0.081
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.266	-0.254	-0.239	-0.233
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.209	0.211	0.235	0.238

Table 8-7

Average Ideological Positions of House Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965
Small Business	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ethics	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation & Infrastructure	All members	0.132	-0.002	0.018	0.057	0.027	0.011	-0.082	-0.042	-0.061	-0.087
	Democrats	-0.150	-0.210	-0.219	-0.285	-0.197	-0.208	-0.273	-0.272	-0.279	-0.267
	Republicans	0.319	0.301	0.314	0.334	0.321	0.289	0.269	0.286	0.251	0.291
Veterans Affairs	All members	0.090	-0.024	0.040	0.031	-0.019	0.001	-0.081	-0.004	-0.014	-0.060
	Democrats	-0.148	-0.193	-0.098	-0.127	-0.192	-0.150	-0.222	-0.137	-0.151	-0.172
	Republicans	0.254	0.261	0.219	0.179	0.241	0.227	0.183	0.195	0.214	0.178
Ways & Means	All members	0.174	0.001	0.017	0.107	-0.025	-0.031	-0.006	0.004	-0.016	-0.065
	Democrats	-0.193	-0.276	-0.251	-0.299	-0.278	-0.288	-0.293	-0.281	-0.309	-0.285
	Republicans	0.418	0.418	0.419	0.377	0.356	0.354	0.471	0.479	0.424	0.402
Chamber average	All members	0.100	-0.020	0.033	0.054	0.023	0.016	-0.057	-0.018	-0.026	-0.086
	Democrats	-0.189	-0.235	-0.211	-0.209	-0.229	-0.228	-0.250	-0.229	-0.249	-0.264
	Republicans	0.328	0.313	0.315	0.309	0.309	0.297	0.299	0.300	0.294	0.286

Table 8-7

Committee		90th 1967	91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987	101st 1989
Agriculture	All members	0.121	0.102	0.034	0.033	-0.085	-0.065	-0.040	0.019	0.008	-0.002	0.008	0.020
	Democrats	-0.034	-0.060	-0.150	-0.190	-0.248	-0.228	-0.213	-0.211	-0.187	-0.211	-0.211	-0.196
	Republicans	0.327	0.297	0.323	0.311	0.267	0.260	0.271	0.309	0.333	0.318	0.343	0.362
Appropriations	All members	-0.012	-0.028	-0.048	-0.058	-0.114	-0.126	-0.145	-0.102	-0.128	-0.122	-0.113	-0.118
	Democrats	-0.211	-0.218	-0.255	-0.270	-0.289	-0.307	-0.337	-0.340	-0.346	-0.361	-0.360	-0.364
	Republicans	0.288	0.273	0.277	0.274	0.247	0.247	0.238	0.254	0.247	0.258	0.279	0.275
Armed Services	All members	0.021	0.039	0.040	0.064	0.005	0.010	0.024	0.068	0.081	0.064	0.035	0.022
	Democrats	-0.167	-0.145	-0.125	-0.148	-0.139	-0.129	-0.117	-0.094	-0.127	-0.153	-0.182	-0.209
	Republicans	0.274	0.304	0.298	0.331	0.291	0.299	0.278	0.292	0.411	0.372	0.371	0.353
Budget	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.096	-0.105	-0.138	-0.150	-0.015	-0.077	-0.036	-0.047	-0.058
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.380	-0.322	-0.368	-0.378	-0.303	-0.339	-0.325	-0.338	-0.326
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.347	0.358	0.352	0.335	0.394	0.400	0.408	0.388	0.345
District of Columbia	All members	-0.012	0.000	-0.012	-0.059	-0.189	-0.179	-0.164	-0.278	-0.254	-0.241	-0.237	-0.211
	Democrats	-0.161	-0.160	-0.180	-0.380	-0.288	-0.295	-0.397	-0.520	-0.539	-0.540	-0.531	-0.579
	Republicans	0.177	0.202	0.241	0.321	0.036	0.037	0.209	0.206	0.245	0.282	0.279	0.433
Education & the Workforce	All members	-0.125	-0.126	-0.140	-0.112	-0.197	-0.173	-0.153	-0.101	-0.161	-0.090	-0.114	-0.155
	Democrats	-0.427	-0.459	-0.429	-0.436	-0.393	-0.381	-0.403	-0.405	-0.400	-0.414	-0.377	-0.437
	Republicans	0.285	0.318	0.285	0.320	0.228	0.242	0.327	0.312	0.295	0.327	0.312	0.321

Table 8-7

Committee		90th 1967	91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987	101st 1989
Energy and Commerce	All members	-0.021	-0.043	-0.028	-0.029	-0.114	-0.120	-0.069	-0.021	-0.031	-0.045	-0.019	-0.026
	Democrats	-0.249	-0.284	-0.289	-0.285	-0.305	-0.310	-0.300	-0.289	-0.296	-0.303	-0.303	-0.307
	Republicans	0.288	0.272	0.335	0.294	0.270	0.273	0.331	0.323	0.360	0.373	0.399	0.402
Financial Services	All members	-0.105	-0.073	-0.085	-0.118	-0.122	-0.128	-0.080	-0.052	-0.041	-0.058	-0.045	-0.055
	Democrats	-0.354	-0.292	-0.331	-0.401	-0.341	-0.301	-0.307	-0.324	-0.299	-0.298	-0.289	-0.321
	Republicans	0.233	0.218	0.277	0.273	0.318	0.229	0.304	0.311	0.360	0.314	0.320	0.344
Oversight & Government Reform	All members	-0.113	-0.147	-0.142	-0.118	-0.180	-0.144	-0.105	-0.050	-0.139	-0.046	-0.084	-0.103
	Democrats	-0.338	-0.360	-0.382	-0.384	-0.374	-0.349	-0.324	-0.317	-0.343	-0.366	-0.358	-0.396
	Republicans	0.185	0.156	0.205	0.221	0.223	0.279	0.285	0.295	0.304	0.387	0.387	0.367
Homeland Security	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
House Administration	All members	0.048	-0.027	-0.019	-0.075	-0.123	-0.122	-0.099	-0.050	-0.075	-0.071	-0.069	-0.086
	Democrats	-0.155	-0.281	-0.308	-0.367	-0.345	-0.352	-0.372	-0.354	-0.342	-0.367	-0.366	-0.355
	Republicans	0.306	0.295	0.414	0.349	0.347	0.367	0.385	0.368	0.383	0.436	0.439	0.350
Foreign Affairs	All members	-0.072	-0.072	-0.077	-0.062	-0.192	-0.195	-0.140	-0.102	-0.177	-0.101	-0.117	-0.137
	Democrats	-0.346	-0.381	-0.340	-0.326	-0.371	-0.382	-0.343	-0.351	-0.394	-0.391	-0.376	-0.415
	Republicans	0.310	0.310	0.249	0.233	0.152	0.178	0.216	0.230	0.258	0.325	0.321	0.287

Table 8-7

Committee		90th 1967	91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987	101st 1989
Judiciary	All members	-0.059	-0.093	-0.121	-0.117	-0.167	-0.130	-0.112	-0.062	-0.132	-0.037	-0.072	-0.065
	Democrats	-0.277	-0.347	-0.408	-0.436	-0.395	-0.327	-0.351	-0.358	-0.372	-0.387	-0.403	-0.395
	Republicans	0.232	0.245	0.257	0.278	0.308	0.281	0.323	0.332	0.348	0.429	0.424	0.429
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	All members	-0.058	-0.049	-0.049	-0.057	-0.124	-0.128	-0.095	-0.038	-0.036	-0.024	-0.021	-0.019
	Democrats	-0.282	-0.259	-0.227	-0.278	-0.283	-0.307	-0.287	-0.218	-0.248	-0.242	-0.239	-0.242
	Republicans	0.227	0.227	0.213	0.228	0.192	0.246	0.247	0.217	0.290	0.296	0.300	0.323
Post Office and Civil Service	All members	-0.045	-0.047	0.009	-0.032	-0.126	-0.151	-0.088	-0.129	-0.085	-0.163	-0.196	-0.185
	Democrats	-0.312	-0.331	-0.279	-0.366	-0.357	-0.392	-0.335	-0.458	-0.432	-0.445	-0.451	-0.442
	Republicans	0.318	0.340	0.442	0.427	0.361	0.360	0.350	0.363	0.400	0.296	0.219	0.214
Natural Resources	All members	-0.069	-0.060	-0.084	-0.055	-0.089	-0.091	-0.083	-0.040	-0.052	-0.017	-0.031	-0.065
	Democrats	-0.318	-0.326	-0.339	-0.331	-0.314	-0.293	-0.300	-0.330	-0.289	-0.325	-0.318	-0.347
	Republicans	0.269	0.301	0.308	0.268	0.329	0.327	0.321	0.378	0.388	0.434	0.439	0.434
Rules	All members	-0.088	-0.088	-0.088	-0.122	-0.157	-0.161	-0.166	-0.168	-0.083	-0.093	-0.135	-0.130
	Democrats	-0.308	-0.303	-0.299	-0.359	-0.380	-0.386	-0.388	-0.398	-0.385	-0.401	-0.395	-0.370
	Republicans	0.351	0.342	0.333	0.352	0.333	0.336	0.321	0.337	0.400	0.399	0.385	0.351
Science, Space & Technology	All members	-0.036	-0.040	-0.055	0.000	-0.094	-0.060	-0.052	-0.030	-0.086	0.014	0.009	-0.032
	Democrats	-0.256	-0.251	-0.259	-0.206	-0.257	-0.223	-0.238	-0.249	-0.310	-0.228	-0.228	-0.244
	Republicans	0.268	0.254	0.249	0.270	0.278	0.278	0.283	0.267	0.347	0.356	0.332	0.301

Table 8-7

Committee		90th 1967	91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987	101st 1989
Small Business	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.172	-0.164	-0.118	-0.050	-0.050	-0.033	-0.057	-0.047
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.350	-0.344	-0.304	-0.296	-0.257	-0.268	-0.294	-0.302
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.184	0.180	0.194	0.267	0.296	0.335	0.319	0.359
Ethics	All members	0.049	0.084	0.088	0.082	0.081	0.061	0.030	0.039	0.002	-0.036	-0.001	0.011
	Democrats	-0.166	-0.131	-0.124	-0.160	-0.100	-0.085	-0.242	-0.340	-0.417	-0.374	-0.373	-0.364
	Republicans	0.263	0.298	0.300	0.324	0.261	0.206	0.301	0.418	0.421	0.303	0.371	0.386
Transportation & Infrastructure	All members	-0.029	-0.029	-0.103	-0.057	-0.096	-0.070	-0.037	-0.005	-0.074	-0.063	-0.036	-0.021
	Democrats	-0.270	-0.279	-0.335	-0.294	-0.281	-0.244	-0.220	-0.258	-0.335	-0.333	-0.336	-0.302
	Republicans	0.276	0.287	0.276	0.284	0.274	0.277	0.298	0.314	0.292	0.321	0.343	0.400
Veterans Affairs	All members	-0.011	-0.019	-0.023	-0.002	-0.066	-0.031	0.014	0.072	-0.035	-0.011	0.012	0.031
	Democrats	-0.136	-0.191	-0.177	-0.154	-0.202	-0.154	-0.129	-0.139	-0.199	-0.224	-0.224	-0.209
	Republicans	0.148	0.199	0.223	0.207	0.223	0.227	0.274	0.314	0.341	0.293	0.394	0.374
Ways & Means	All members	-0.026	-0.046	-0.052	-0.024	-0.076	-0.076	-0.099	-0.062	-0.064	-0.065	-0.074	-0.083
	Democrats	-0.297	-0.284	-0.278	-0.263	-0.286	-0.288	-0.339	-0.304	-0.288	-0.304	-0.324	-0.327
	Republicans	0.382	0.350	0.325	0.335	0.400	0.365	0.382	0.382	0.364	0.357	0.368	0.349
Chamber average	All members	-0.026	-0.031	-0.050	-0.039	-0.113	-0.107	-0.079	-0.028	-0.052	-0.060	-0.073	-0.076
	Democrats	-0.255	-0.270	-0.281	-0.296	-0.301	-0.293	-0.295	-0.296	-0.297	-0.313	-0.317	-0.324
	Republicans	0.277	0.278	0.284	0.282	0.267	0.266	0.290	0.308	0.334	0.332	0.337	0.338

Table 8-7

Committee		102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Agriculture	All members	0.027	0.052	0.121	0.155	0.141	0.165	0.152	0.177	0.124	0.112	0.268	0.249
	Democrats	-0.210	-0.237	-0.305	-0.251	-0.239	-0.257	-0.243	-0.215	-0.211	-0.195	-0.300	-0.287
	Republicans	0.403	0.438	0.468	0.471	0.464	0.462	0.473	0.522	0.543	0.590	0.683	0.700
Appropriations	All members	-0.120	-0.101	0.038	0.028	0.035	0.052	0.047	0.079	-0.031	-0.054	0.146	0.128
	Democrats	-0.373	-0.386	-0.404	-0.428	-0.410	-0.412	-0.395	-0.384	-0.423	-0.401	-0.438	-0.386
	Republicans	0.306	0.344	0.365	0.388	0.389	0.403	0.403	0.442	0.471	0.528	0.569	0.568
Armed Services	All members	0.003	0.025	0.137	0.168	0.119	0.114	0.144	0.153	0.080	0.070	0.231	0.215
	Democrats	-0.231	-0.229	-0.261	-0.281	-0.303	-0.324	-0.289	-0.311	-0.320	-0.262	-0.329	-0.302
	Republicans	0.370	0.395	0.456	0.466	0.462	0.470	0.485	0.521	0.551	0.549	0.631	0.641
Budget	All members	-0.074	-0.083	0.094	0.094	0.096	0.130	0.127	0.169	0.043	-0.006	0.280	0.221
	Democrats	-0.316	-0.323	-0.356	-0.360	-0.375	-0.413	-0.381	-0.329	-0.406	-0.389	-0.404	-0.430
	Republicans	0.324	0.346	0.446	0.466	0.484	0.500	0.529	0.553	0.625	0.649	0.802	0.807
District of Columbia	All members	-0.205	-0.161	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	-0.577	-0.553	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	0.446	0.427	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Education & the Workforce	All members	-0.164	-0.119	0.027	0.022	0.071	0.038	0.052	0.063	-0.040	-0.008	0.154	0.255
	Democrats	-0.454	-0.426	-0.456	-0.447	-0.455	-0.460	-0.465	-0.463	-0.480	-0.439	-0.464	-0.409
	Republicans	0.350	0.400	0.404	0.467	0.496	0.459	0.459	0.508	0.553	0.629	0.632	0.745

Table 8-7

Committee		102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Energy and Commerce	All members	-0.048	-0.044	0.071	0.069	0.067	0.080	0.074	0.099	0.043	0.033	0.222	0.228
	Democrats	-0.306	-0.324	-0.344	-0.380	-0.386	-0.399	-0.396	-0.419	-0.403	-0.361	-0.382	-0.386
	Republicans	0.418	0.402	0.419	0.432	0.442	0.447	0.452	0.534	0.574	0.634	0.669	0.699
Financial Services	All members	-0.061	-0.110	-0.004	-0.009	0.027	0.091	0.072	0.086	0.076	0.061	0.208	0.228
	Democrats	-0.311	-0.413	-0.462	-0.477	-0.430	-0.454	-0.393	-0.403	-0.389	-0.340	-0.395	-0.366
	Republicans	0.373	0.365	0.390	0.412	0.432	0.445	0.479	0.522	0.583	0.641	0.688	0.750
Oversight & Government Reform	All members	-0.121	-0.139	0.029	0.091	0.023	-0.019	0.036	0.071	0.005	0.023	0.257	0.358
	Democrats	-0.355	-0.423	-0.377	-0.390	-0.433	-0.470	-0.457	-0.471	-0.461	-0.407	-0.421	-0.318
	Republicans	0.296	0.330	0.365	0.418	0.404	0.392	0.431	0.495	0.608	0.669	0.728	0.828
Homeland Security	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.095	-0.003	0.037	0.233	0.202
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.410	-0.409	-0.354	-0.410	-0.378
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.440	0.490	0.607	0.673	0.685
House Administration	All members	-0.098	-0.114	0.031	0.064	0.278	0.000	0.134	0.227	-0.097	-0.047	0.325	0.335
	Democrats	-0.369	-0.383	-0.428	-0.453	-0.342	-0.334	-0.448	-0.407	-0.422	-0.389	-0.387	-0.401
	Republicans	0.354	0.424	0.360	0.374	0.381	0.334	0.425	0.438	0.553	0.637	0.682	0.703
Foreign Affairs	All members	-0.134	-0.103	0.055	0.052	0.074	0.098	0.069	0.180	0.064	0.062	0.145	0.292
	Democrats	-0.397	-0.406	-0.401	-0.415	-0.419	-0.470	-0.449	-0.406	-0.425	-0.384	-0.360	-0.370
	Republicans	0.276	0.336	0.427	0.406	0.415	0.491	0.507	0.636	0.670	0.697	0.489	0.822

Table 8-7

Committee		102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Judiciary	All members	-0.112	-0.108	0.042	0.054	0.040	0.088	0.112	0.160	-0.003	0.020	0.279	0.331
	Democrats	-0.401	-0.440	-0.486	-0.489	-0.506	-0.508	-0.506	-0.469	-0.504	-0.444	-0.451	-0.337
	Republicans	0.356	0.389	0.437	0.461	0.477	0.542	0.582	0.624	0.675	0.687	0.754	0.824
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	All members	-0.026	-0.037	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	-0.255	-0.285	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	0.352	0.349	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Post Office and Civil Service	All members	-0.181	-0.170	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	-0.422	-0.431	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	0.212	0.237	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Natural Resources	All members	-0.025	-0.046	0.130	0.119	0.133	0.130	0.156	0.150	0.046	0.096	0.279	0.280
	Democrats	-0.333	-0.336	-0.359	-0.400	-0.381	-0.403	-0.406	-0.376	-0.440	-0.408	-0.405	-0.409
	Republicans	0.456	0.452	0.477	0.508	0.499	0.491	0.497	0.535	0.602	0.700	0.684	0.731
Rules	All members	-0.119	-0.123	0.162	0.186	0.196	0.198	0.161	0.224	-0.171	-0.098	0.348	0.390
	Democrats	-0.369	-0.368	-0.351	-0.374	-0.381	-0.388	-0.522	-0.598	-0.493	-0.427	-0.493	-0.479
	Republicans	0.446	0.428	0.390	0.434	0.453	0.458	0.465	0.498	0.556	0.643	0.769	0.776
Science, Space & Technology	All members	-0.032	0.037	0.131	0.062	0.065	0.081	0.083	0.079	0.113	0.088	0.203	0.316
	Democrats	-0.248	-0.214	-0.266	-0.291	-0.344	-0.358	-0.349	-0.351	-0.311	-0.311	-0.419	-0.350
	Republicans	0.333	0.420	0.470	0.414	0.438	0.465	0.464	0.471	0.628	0.698	0.756	0.809

Table 8-7

Committee		102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Small Business	All members	-0.046	-0.061	0.054	0.085	0.070	0.067	0.140	0.202	0.038	0.128	0.230	0.297
	Democrats	-0.302	-0.374	-0.411	-0.322	-0.391	-0.410	-0.401	-0.387	-0.368	-0.221	-0.335	-0.346
	Republicans	0.388	0.390	0.455	0.469	0.474	0.491	0.538	0.562	0.601	0.621	0.751	0.802
Ethics	All members	-0.034	-0.052	-0.081	-0.002	-0.329	0.150	0.058	0.053	0.085	0.073	0.043	0.150
	Democrats	-0.450	-0.445	-0.477	-0.483	-0.479	-0.409	-0.335	-0.360	-0.434	-0.406	-0.468	-0.497
	Republicans	0.381	0.340	0.315	0.479	0.420	0.708	0.451	0.465	0.604	0.553	0.555	0.667
Transportation & Infrastructure	All members	-0.016	-0.054	0.042	0.034	0.044	0.047	0.055	0.077	0.021	0.025	0.208	0.239
	Democrats	-0.266	-0.296	-0.304	-0.333	-0.328	-0.358	-0.387	-0.377	-0.365	-0.337	-0.373	-0.364
	Republicans	0.389	0.353	0.344	0.356	0.376	0.381	0.410	0.452	0.475	0.556	0.648	0.715
Veterans Affairs	All members	0.015	-0.053	0.085	0.082	0.093	0.068	0.063	0.098	0.095	0.101	0.253	0.272
	Democrats	-0.212	-0.314	-0.356	-0.380	-0.362	-0.365	-0.414	-0.385	-0.291	-0.222	-0.318	-0.316
	Republicans	0.383	0.404	0.453	0.457	0.450	0.423	0.428	0.485	0.569	0.630	0.737	0.735
Ways & Means	All members	-0.098	-0.101	0.066	0.060	0.060	0.065	0.074	0.101	-0.035	-0.035	0.192	0.223
	Democrats	-0.348	-0.382	-0.425	-0.455	-0.467	-0.463	-0.463	-0.469	-0.464	-0.423	-0.457	-0.440
	Republicans	0.344	0.417	0.435	0.435	0.426	0.440	0.455	0.504	0.544	0.636	0.656	0.705
Chamber average	All members	-0.091	-0.083	-0.071	0.039	0.033	0.034	0.054	0.084	0.036	0.027	0.197	0.215
	Democrats	-0.321	-0.329	-0.368	-0.387	-0.392	-0.399	-0.403	-0.400	-0.391	-0.354	-0.394	-0.377
	Republicans	0.339	0.365	0.380	0.428	0.434	0.445	0.462	0.509	0.566	0.620	0.675	0.724

n.a. = not available

Note: In 1995, the new Republican majority abolished the District of Columbia, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and Post Office and Civil Service Committees. It also renamed several committees. For the changes, please see chapter 4. The committee titles here reflect the current names.

For congresses since the 108th, calculations were done using the contemporaneous release of Poole and Rosenthal's ideological scores (i.e., the 108th Congress release for the 108th Congress committee calculations, the 109th release for the 109th Congress committee calculations, etc.). Thus, they may not match exactly calculations done with subsequent NOMINATE releases.

For congresses prior to 109, data is from calculations done by Charles Stewart III, MIT. For 109th, 112th and 113th Congresses, committee assignment data is from Charles Stewart III and Jonathan Woon, Congressional Committee Assignments, 103rd to 114th Congresses, 1993--2017: House and Senate, September 2016. For 110th and 111th Congresses, committee assignment data was collected by Vital Stats staff members. For the 109th congress-present, data reflects committee makeup at start of congress.

Overall chamber averages here may not match data in 8-9 because of the use of different releases of Poole and Rosenthal's data (see note to Table 8-9 for further detail). In addition, in this table, ideological scores for members who each served a partial term in a given congress are averaged before taking the overall chamber average, unless the members of the pair are of different parties, in which case both are counted in the average.

Some data from previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.

Source: This table uses ideological scores based on members' voting records developed by political scientists Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal, available at voteview.com. The Poole-Rosenthal DW-NOMINATE scores can be viewed at voteview.com. A positive score denotes a conservative ideology, while a negative score denotes a liberal one. Scores closest to zero reflect the most centrist ideologies, while more extreme scores reflect stronger conservative or liberal ideologies.

Table 8-8

Average Ideological Positions of Senate Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965	90th 1967
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry	All members	0.081	0.036	0.072	0.152	0.067	0.082	-0.006	-0.083	-0.050	-0.056	-0.040
	Democrats	-0.168	-0.103	-0.097	-0.052	-0.139	-0.114	-0.200	-0.239	-0.211	-0.177	-0.125
	Republicans	0.294	0.258	0.268	0.331	0.302	0.306	0.350	0.201	0.245	0.160	0.129
Appropriations	All members	0.133	0.056	0.093	0.106	0.081	0.079	-0.017	0.008	-0.058	-0.048	-0.078
	Democrats	-0.095	-0.102	-0.109	-0.098	-0.101	-0.087	-0.167	-0.164	-0.191	-0.176	-0.200
	Republicans	0.305	0.314	0.316	0.293	0.279	0.278	0.283	0.301	0.207	0.206	0.153
Armed Services	All members	0.083	0.060	0.087	0.044	0.063	0.067	0.000	0.009	-0.051	-0.013	-0.021
	Democrats	-0.108	-0.059	-0.052	-0.095	-0.106	-0.107	-0.140	-0.130	-0.150	-0.158	-0.192
	Republicans	0.275	0.228	0.255	0.166	0.255	0.266	0.234	0.240	0.167	0.334	0.319
Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs	All members	0.023	-0.066	0.112	0.070	-0.057	0.011	-0.131	-0.174	-0.143	-0.143	-0.124
	Democrats	-0.316	-0.284	-0.127	-0.206	-0.258	-0.204	-0.312	-0.353	-0.403	-0.393	-0.329
	Republicans	0.313	0.284	0.392	0.312	0.260	0.257	0.229	0.184	0.377	0.484	0.246
Budget	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Commerce, Science, & Transportation	All members	0.094	-0.018	0.089	0.048	0.058	0.097	-0.095	-0.093	-0.156	-0.146	-0.115
	Democrats	-0.206	-0.234	-0.173	-0.179	-0.149	-0.164	-0.291	-0.289	-0.320	-0.342	-0.283
	Republicans	0.351	0.328	0.395	0.246	0.266	0.321	0.232	0.234	0.204	0.247	0.222

Table 8-8

Average Ideological Positions of Senate Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965	90th 1967
Energy & Natural Resources	All members	0.144	0.036	0.022	0.087	-0.004	-0.059	-0.205	-0.159	-0.127	-0.169	-0.170
	Democrats	-0.289	-0.276	-0.294	-0.204	-0.318	-0.405	-0.448	-0.417	-0.419	-0.418	-0.416
	Republicans	0.415	0.400	0.391	0.342	0.354	0.335	0.280	0.316	0.409	0.379	0.281
Environment & Public Works	All members	0.190	0.110	0.147	0.061	-0.026	-0.059	-0.238	-0.236	-0.259	-0.254	-0.156
	Democrats	-0.004	-0.097	-0.086	-0.120	-0.386	-0.410	-0.444	-0.440	-0.440	-0.430	-0.384
	Republicans	0.357	0.441	0.381	0.242	0.334	0.351	0.175	0.140	0.175	0.170	0.223
Finance	All members	0.180	0.159	0.218	0.226	0.140	0.127	0.047	0.005	-0.022	-0.031	-0.064
	Democrats	-0.100	-0.065	0.037	0.035	-0.065	-0.149	-0.182	-0.234	-0.270	-0.283	-0.336
	Republicans	0.419	0.421	0.430	0.394	0.375	0.442	0.468	0.442	0.431	0.432	0.433
Foreign Relations	All members	-0.022	-0.089	-0.058	-0.004	-0.095	-0.110	-0.157	-0.113	-0.125	-0.161	-0.175
	Democrats	-0.268	-0.243	-0.166	-0.221	-0.279	-0.381	-0.335	-0.339	-0.324	-0.354	-0.411
	Republicans	0.189	0.157	0.093	0.185	0.199	0.200	0.169	0.300	0.355	0.257	0.231
Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions	All members	-0.029	-0.214	-0.211	-0.092	-0.183	-0.165	-0.245	-0.268	-0.226	-0.287	-0.235
	Democrats	-0.347	-0.405	-0.449	-0.477	-0.514	-0.537	-0.499	-0.477	-0.492	-0.523	-0.519
	Republicans	0.198	0.169	0.123	0.237	0.204	0.208	0.137	0.150	0.307	0.231	0.239
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs	All members	0.074	-0.015	0.048	0.064	0.005	0.061	-0.054	-0.118	-0.125	-0.156	-0.138
	Democrats	-0.124	-0.209	-0.162	-0.234	-0.234	-0.198	-0.288	-0.289	-0.311	-0.354	-0.355
	Republicans	0.245	0.211	0.292	0.319	0.244	0.320	0.415	0.225	0.248	0.339	0.295

Table 8-8

Average Ideological Positions of Senate Committees, 80th-113th Congresses

Committee		80th 1947	81st 1949	82nd 1951	83rd 1953	84th 1955	85th 1957	86th 1959	87th 1961	88th 1963	89th 1965	90th 1967
Judiciary	All members	0.041	-0.044	0.058	0.112	0.072	0.054	-0.102	-0.050	-0.110	-0.128	-0.082
	Democrats	-0.207	-0.270	-0.139	-0.153	-0.181	-0.205	-0.274	-0.211	-0.266	-0.270	-0.256
	Republicans	0.254	0.273	0.287	0.344	0.361	0.351	0.241	0.272	0.201	0.155	0.301
Rules & Administration	All members	0.092	-0.015	-0.040	0.057	0.033	-0.115	-0.113	-0.059	-0.119	-0.119	-0.119
	Democrats	-0.279	-0.183	-0.291	-0.244	-0.335	-0.252	-0.262	-0.246	-0.293	-0.296	-0.299
	Republicans	0.324	0.256	0.252	0.297	0.493	0.114	0.186	0.315	0.229	0.235	0.242
Small Business & Entrepreneurship	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Veterans Affairs	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Chamber average	All members	0.082	0.018	0.064	0.048	0.023	0.014	-0.100	-0.096	-0.113	-0.125	-0.110
	Democrats	-0.173	-0.194	-0.162	-0.171	-0.226	-0.245	-0.290	-0.291	-0.310	-0.321	-0.311
	Republicans	0.307	0.287	0.306	0.280	0.291	0.278	0.248	0.260	0.279	0.284	0.248

Table 8-8

Committee		91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry	All members	0.089	0.046	-0.011	-0.015	-0.020	0.022	0.081	0.100	0.059	0.038
	Democrats	-0.042	-0.126	-0.278	-0.244	-0.269	-0.228	-0.189	-0.193	-0.234	-0.315
	Republicans	0.243	0.275	0.345	0.396	0.394	0.335	0.322	0.335	0.319	0.351
Appropriations	All members	-0.024	-0.052	-0.123	-0.148	-0.195	-0.099	-0.014	-0.031	-0.042	-0.083
	Democrats	-0.183	-0.224	-0.266	-0.260	-0.270	-0.298	-0.272	-0.272	-0.297	-0.302
	Republicans	0.199	0.151	0.071	0.032	-0.045	0.209	0.226	0.194	0.197	0.187
Armed Services	All members	0.018	0.030	0.082	0.033	0.031	0.048	0.147	0.084	0.081	0.049
	Democrats	-0.173	-0.227	-0.220	-0.297	-0.323	-0.263	-0.240	-0.297	-0.292	-0.263
	Republicans	0.255	0.299	0.463	0.494	0.525	0.416	0.431	0.389	0.416	0.431
Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs	All members	-0.192	-0.066	-0.107	-0.092	-0.089	-0.100	-0.039	-0.001	-0.005	-0.033
	Democrats	-0.380	-0.335	-0.350	-0.333	-0.354	-0.394	-0.412	-0.397	-0.387	-0.321
	Republicans	0.090	0.242	0.205	0.292	0.309	0.340	0.287	0.350	0.377	0.328
Budget	All members	n.a.	n.a.	-0.138	-0.107	-0.137	-0.110	0.025	0.025	0.009	-0.009
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	-0.408	-0.371	-0.381	-0.345	-0.337	-0.340	-0.348	-0.319
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	0.268	0.295	0.268	0.243	0.326	0.329	0.307	0.301
Commerce, Science, & Transportation	All members	-0.102	-0.094	-0.105	-0.151	-0.148	-0.049	0.011	-0.002	-0.010	-0.077
	Democrats	-0.319	-0.306	-0.324	-0.321	-0.275	-0.251	-0.225	-0.255	-0.283	-0.327
	Republicans	0.197	0.172	0.208	0.120	0.232	0.239	0.221	0.223	0.232	0.229

Table 8-8

Committee		91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987
Energy & Natural Resources	All members	-0.112	-0.077	-0.003	-0.074	-0.098	-0.135	-0.007	-0.028	0.009	-0.011
	Democrats	-0.403	-0.373	-0.384	-0.356	-0.376	-0.355	-0.352	-0.362	-0.347	-0.357
	Republicans	0.304	0.304	0.427	0.436	0.411	0.212	0.275	0.245	0.294	0.300
Environment & Public Works	All members	-0.136	-0.080	-0.048	-0.095	-0.128	-0.142	0.004	0.006	-0.025	-0.102
	Democrats	-0.357	-0.307	-0.355	-0.316	-0.305	-0.347	-0.327	-0.328	-0.359	-0.344
	Republicans	0.195	0.163	0.330	0.251	0.192	0.132	0.262	0.266	0.267	0.210
Finance	All members	0.019	0.032	-0.004	-0.029	-0.013	-0.080	0.042	0.017	0.019	-0.088
	Democrats	-0.299	-0.341	-0.345	-0.348	-0.280	-0.272	-0.270	-0.273	-0.280	-0.342
	Republicans	0.474	0.436	0.404	0.388	0.342	0.138	0.245	0.254	0.263	0.223
Foreign Relations	All members	-0.163	-0.187	-0.237	-0.229	-0.239	-0.119	-0.063	-0.052	-0.040	-0.071
	Democrats	-0.355	-0.341	-0.394	-0.396	-0.371	-0.361	-0.380	-0.378	-0.381	-0.435
	Republicans	0.125	0.012	-0.012	0.010	-0.042	0.244	0.219	0.238	0.263	0.334
Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions	All members	-0.225	-0.243	-0.269	-0.234	-0.258	-0.173	-0.021	-0.032	-0.046	-0.151
	Democrats	-0.473	-0.461	-0.458	-0.453	-0.422	-0.459	-0.449	-0.443	-0.479	-0.493
	Republicans	0.128	0.069	0.048	0.095	0.070	0.256	0.311	0.287	0.292	0.289
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs	All members	-0.105	-0.075	-0.065	-0.114	-0.171	-0.151	-0.097	-0.065	-0.106	-0.143
	Democrats	-0.264	-0.243	-0.194	-0.218	-0.227	-0.299	-0.287	-0.296	-0.306	-0.306
	Republicans	0.134	0.135	0.149	0.072	0.141	0.015	0.072	0.121	0.066	0.074

Table 8-8

Committee		91st 1969	92nd 1971	93rd 1973	94th 1975	95th 1977	96th 1979	97th 1981	98th 1983	99th 1985	100th 1987
Judiciary	All members	-0.064	-0.045	-0.044	-0.088	-0.156	-0.097	0.020	-0.002	-0.013	-0.064
	Democrats	-0.253	-0.249	-0.248	-0.339	-0.333	-0.384	-0.350	-0.350	-0.372	-0.375
	Republicans	0.205	0.217	0.218	0.288	0.162	0.313	0.316	0.276	0.274	0.351
Rules & Administration	All members	0.046	-0.018	-0.073	-0.090	-0.104	-0.096	0.025	0.032	0.024	-0.041
	Democrats	-0.164	-0.161	-0.232	-0.227	-0.287	-0.292	-0.318	-0.304	-0.307	-0.364
	Republicans	0.308	0.161	0.124	0.140	0.262	0.198	0.270	0.272	0.261	0.374
Small Business & Entrepreneurship	All members	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.062	-0.073	-0.059	-0.096
	Democrats	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.321	-0.289	-0.317	-0.330
	Republicans	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.168	0.143	0.199	0.196
Veterans Affairs	All members	n.a.	-0.066	-0.035	0.027	-0.052	-0.034	0.054	0.017	0.039	-0.095
	Democrats	n.a.	-0.362	-0.367	-0.274	-0.272	-0.294	-0.329	-0.335	-0.367	-0.371
	Republicans	n.a.	0.303	0.380	0.403	0.315	0.357	0.328	0.268	0.271	0.235
Chamber average	All members	-0.077	-0.061	-0.080	-0.097	-0.101	-0.080	0.011	0.012	0.002	-0.047
	Democrats	-0.298	-0.302	-0.331	-0.323	-0.318	-0.315	-0.304	-0.309	-0.324	-0.332
	Republicans	0.217	0.210	0.239	0.246	0.234	0.244	0.279	0.284	0.292	0.293

Table 8-8

Committee		101st 1989	102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry	All members	0.024	0.042	-0.006	0.063	0.096	0.081	0.077	0.044	0.087	0.018	-0.004	0.025	0.044
	Democrats	-0.309	-0.313	-0.355	-0.327	-0.345	-0.339	-0.300	-0.297	-0.346	-0.375	-0.341	-0.332	-0.345
	Republicans	0.357	0.397	0.429	0.410	0.448	0.417	0.454	0.355	0.442	0.412	0.446	0.417	0.520
Appropriations	All members	-0.080	-0.103	-0.065	-0.022	-0.001	-0.002	-0.026	-0.008	0.024	-0.023	-0.098	-0.019	0.015
	Democrats	-0.350	-0.354	-0.355	-0.373	-0.411	-0.406	-0.382	-0.383	-0.409	-0.414	-0.386	-0.366	-0.368
	Republicans	0.253	0.231	0.293	0.282	0.354	0.348	0.330	0.342	0.400	0.397	0.335	0.378	0.426
Armed Services	All members	-0.010	-0.004	0.044	0.067	0.069	0.072	0.040	0.016	0.066	0.012	-0.002	0.039	0.100
	Democrats	-0.286	-0.287	-0.278	-0.319	-0.360	-0.371	-0.370	-0.392	-0.416	-0.386	-0.348	-0.306	-0.327
	Republicans	0.370	0.386	0.437	0.418	0.412	0.435	0.449	0.392	0.473	0.443	0.460	0.442	0.599
Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs	All members	-0.035	-0.036	-0.056	0.049	0.063	0.080	0.054	0.041	0.091	0.003	0.009	0.037	0.058
	Democrats	-0.346	-0.346	-0.376	-0.441	-0.455	-0.408	-0.371	-0.371	-0.443	-0.437	-0.381	-0.395	-0.366
	Republicans	0.307	0.305	0.384	0.431	0.477	0.479	0.478	0.416	0.528	0.486	0.515	0.688	0.750
Budget	All members	-0.005	0.013	-0.047	0.023	-0.021	-0.017	-0.019	0.042	0.084	-0.027	-0.009	0.067	0.047
	Democrats	-0.325	-0.341	-0.395	-0.396	-0.472	-0.473	-0.426	-0.436	-0.470	-0.537	-0.425	-0.388	-0.385
	Republicans	0.344	0.403	0.419	0.373	0.355	0.363	0.387	0.480	0.546	0.530	0.532	0.563	0.565
Commerce, Science, & Transportation	All members	-0.049	-0.046	-0.014	0.023	0.044	0.046	-0.014	-0.009	0.069	-0.017	0.008	0.056	0.045
	Democrats	-0.280	-0.282	-0.294	-0.300	-0.327	-0.325	-0.348	-0.378	-0.391	-0.422	-0.363	-0.356	-0.361
	Republicans	0.269	0.278	0.296	0.314	0.347	0.350	0.320	0.330	0.453	0.425	0.481	0.551	0.533

Table 8-8

Committee		101st 1989	102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Energy & Natural Resources	All members	0.013	-0.007	-0.012	0.035	0.072	0.070	0.035	0.051	0.069	0.008	0.016	0.066	0.094
	Democrats	-0.323	-0.331	-0.323	-0.375	-0.341	-0.323	-0.352	-0.354	-0.391	-0.419	-0.346	-0.338	-0.345
	Republicans	0.386	0.388	0.369	0.364	0.409	0.392	0.422	0.423	0.453	0.475	0.486	0.504	0.573
Environment & Public Works	All members	-0.066	-0.145	-0.081	0.100	0.090	0.051	-0.027	0.027	0.065	-0.020	-0.104	-0.012	0.050
	Democrats	-0.318	-0.368	-0.396	-0.364	-0.378	-0.384	-0.392	-0.369	-0.425	-0.469	-0.440	-0.441	-0.435
	Republicans	0.257	0.190	0.369	0.461	0.464	0.399	0.337	0.381	0.458	0.480	0.473	0.525	0.655
Finance	All members	-0.085	-0.088	-0.061	0.003	0.036	0.057	0.045	0.081	0.096	-0.004	0.016	0.020	0.088
	Democrats	-0.347	-0.329	-0.347	-0.343	-0.313	-0.296	-0.301	-0.300	-0.357	-0.389	-0.351	-0.351	-0.351
	Republicans	0.234	0.205	0.257	0.286	0.322	0.347	0.390	0.430	0.467	0.419	0.493	0.504	0.567
Foreign Relations	All members	-0.014	-0.037	-0.105	0.034	0.032	0.018	-0.066	-0.064	-0.042	-0.074	-0.018	0.078	0.025
	Democrats	-0.405	-0.411	-0.440	-0.445	-0.489	-0.527	-0.510	-0.506	-0.530	-0.521	-0.425	-0.404	-0.402
	Republicans	0.420	0.430	0.354	0.416	0.448	0.454	0.378	0.334	0.347	0.417	0.542	0.614	0.612
Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions	All members	-0.185	-0.209	-0.194	-0.067	-0.050	-0.032	-0.076	-0.011	0.060	-0.034	-0.047	-0.018	-0.013
	Democrats	-0.497	-0.508	-0.498	-0.526	-0.506	-0.507	-0.493	-0.457	-0.484	-0.528	-0.453	-0.416	-0.457
	Republicans	0.217	0.219	0.241	0.291	0.315	0.349	0.340	0.383	0.505	0.510	0.481	0.460	0.519
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs	All members	-0.113	-0.129	-0.130	0.009	-0.006	-0.028	-0.035	-0.061	-0.016	-0.044	-0.045	0.028	0.036
	Democrats	-0.295	-0.320	-0.347	-0.353	-0.387	-0.390	-0.367	-0.433	-0.434	-0.378	-0.360	-0.301	-0.299
	Republicans	0.129	0.126	0.217	0.326	0.291	0.253	0.297	0.270	0.309	0.333	0.405	0.497	0.594

Table 8-8

Committee		101st 1989	102nd 1991	103rd 1993	104th 1995	105th 1997	106th 1999	107th 2001	108th 2003	109th 2005	110th 2007	111th 2009	112th 2011	113th 2013
Judiciary	All members	-0.063	-0.074	-0.085	0.010	0.009	0.034	-0.047	-0.017	0.045	-0.048	-0.071	0.034	0.032
	Democrats	-0.372	-0.376	-0.388	-0.418	-0.459	-0.450	-0.476	-0.476	-0.516	-0.540	-0.441	-0.415	-0.426
	Republicans	0.350	0.329	0.293	0.353	0.384	0.421	0.382	0.396	0.494	0.499	0.562	0.597	0.604
Rules & Administration	All members	-0.035	-0.075	-0.049	0.042	0.089	0.082	0.043	0.032	0.072	-0.014	-0.039	-0.002	0.062
	Democrats	-0.366	-0.368	-0.335	-0.359	-0.338	-0.363	-0.351	-0.376	-0.394	-0.392	-0.392	-0.342	-0.340
	Republicans	0.390	0.364	0.319	0.354	0.421	0.429	0.436	0.400	0.445	0.405	0.446	0.423	0.565
Small Business & Entrepreneurship	All members	-0.037	-0.079	-0.056	0.013	0.029	0.001	-0.038	0.006	0.086	-0.017	-0.013	0.053	0.163
	Democrats	-0.315	-0.367	-0.393	-0.395	-0.427	-0.428	-0.430	-0.372	-0.386	-0.400	-0.352	-0.351	-0.327
	Republicans	0.345	0.374	0.394	0.347	0.394	0.344	0.354	0.345	0.465	0.408	0.453	0.501	0.715
Veterans Affairs	All members	-0.108	-0.131	-0.118	0.033	-0.034	-0.033	-0.021	0.059	0.080	-0.060	-0.096	-0.018	-0.032
	Democrats	-0.377	-0.380	-0.332	-0.336	-0.477	-0.487	-0.341	-0.268	-0.432	-0.499	-0.419	-0.392	-0.436
	Republicans	0.213	0.219	0.182	0.296	0.283	0.291	0.300	0.354	0.464	0.441	0.441	0.409	0.507
Chamber average	All members	-0.045	-0.060	-0.059	-0.040	0.029	0.028	-0.005	-0.002	0.060	0.059	-0.033	0.037	0.044
	Democrats	-0.336	-0.340	-0.349	-0.358	-0.396	-0.394	-0.388	-0.388	-0.424	-0.424	-0.368	-0.361	-0.378
	Republicans	0.310	0.306	0.308	0.304	0.389	0.387	0.386	0.369	0.456	0.456	0.425	0.487	0.548

n.a. = not available

Note: For congresses since the 108th, calculations were done using the contemporaneous release of Poole and Rosenthal's ideological scores (i.e., the 108th Congress release for the 108th Congress committee calculations, the 109th release for the 109th Congress committee calculations, etc.). Thus, they may not match exactly calculations done with subsequent NOMINATE releases.

For congresses prior to 109, data is from calculations done by Charles Stewart III, MIT. For 109th, 112th and 113th Congresses, committee assignment data is from Charles Stewart III and Jonathan Woon, Congressional Committee Assignments, 103rd to 114th Congresses, 1993--2017: House and Senate, September 2016. For 110th and 111th Congresses, committee assignment data was collected by Vital Stats staff members. For the 109th congress-present, data reflects committee makeup at start of congress.

Overall chamber averages here may not match data in 8-10 because of the use of different releases of Poole and Rosenthal's data (see note to Table 8-10 for further detail). In addition, in this table, ideological scores for members who each served a partial term in a given congress are averaged before taking the overall chamber average, unless the members of the pair are of different parties, in which case both are counted in the average.

Some data from earlier years/previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.

Source: This table uses ideological scores based on members' voting records developed by political scientists Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal, available at voteview.com. The Poole-Rosenthal DW-NOMINATE scores can be viewed at voteview.com. A positive score denotes a conservative ideology, while a negative score denotes a liberal one. Scores closest to zero reflect the most centrist ideologies, while more extreme scores reflect stronger conservative or liberal ideologies.

Table 8-9 Average Ideological Positions of House Party Coalitions, 80th-114th Congresses, 1947-2015

Congress	Entire chamber	Democrats	Republicans	Nonsouthern Democrats	Southern Democrats
80th (1947)	0.072	-0.147	0.248	-0.303	-0.046
81st (1949)	-0.025	-0.197	0.242	-0.312	-0.054
82nd (1951)	0.014	-0.183	0.239	-0.315	-0.047
83rd (1953)	0.026	-0.187	0.234	-0.336	-0.046
84th (1955)	-0.006	-0.215	0.233	-0.353	-0.057
85th (1957)	-0.017	-0.221	0.221	-0.357	-0.065
86th (1959)	-0.079	-0.245	0.221	-0.355	-0.071
87th (1961)	-0.055	-0.232	0.221	-0.347	-0.076
88th (1963)	-0.063	-0.255	0.214	-0.371	-0.086
89th (1965)	-0.115	-0.267	0.204	-0.36	-0.091
90th (1967)	-0.065	-0.263	0.197	-0.375	-0.071
91st (1969)	-0.066	-0.28	0.207	-0.386	-0.087
92nd (1971)	-0.081	-0.286	0.203	-0.387	-0.096
93rd (1973)	-0.078	-0.303	0.204	-0.388	-0.138
94th (1975)	-0.135	-0.301	0.197	-0.371	-0.15
95th (1977)	-0.129	-0.292	0.194	-0.358	-0.148
96th (1979)	-0.103	-0.289	0.223	-0.352	-0.149
97th (1981)	-0.049	-0.287	0.25	-0.357	-0.141
98th (1983)	-0.07	-0.289	0.281	-0.358	-0.153
99th (1985)	-0.05	-0.301	0.301	-0.357	-0.184
100th (1987)	-0.048	-0.299	0.315	-0.351	-0.195
101st (1989)	-0.046	-0.302	0.327	-0.347	-0.206
102nd (1991)	-0.049	-0.302	0.357	-0.344	-0.21
103rd (1993)	-0.021	-0.314	0.407	-0.347	-0.247
104th (1995)	0.09	-0.339	0.472	-0.371	-0.267
105th (1997)	0.095	-0.346	0.501	-0.369	-0.281
106th (1999)	0.1	-0.345	0.525	-0.371	-0.271
107th (2001)	0.119	-0.35	0.555	-0.374	-0.278
108th (2003)	0.141	-0.349	0.584	-0.383	-0.263
109th (2005)	0.159	-0.359	0.606	-0.385	-0.282
110th (2007)	0.11	-0.34	0.636	-0.365	-0.264
111th (2009)	0.08	-0.329	0.665	-0.35	-0.263
112th (2011)	0.206	-0.378	0.686	-0.391	-0.325
113th (2013)	0.205	-0.371	0.7	-0.376	-0.352
114th (2015)	0.227	-0.384	0.693	-0.387	-0.37

Note: Data in this table has been changed from previous versions. See errata for more detail.

Source: This table uses ideological scores based on members' voting records developed by political scientists Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal, available at voteview.com. The Poole-Rosenthal DW-NOMINATE scores can be viewed at voteview.com. A positive score denotes a conservative ideology, while a negative score denotes a liberal one. Scores closest to zero reflect the most centrist ideologies, while more extreme scores reflect stronger conservative or liberal ideologies.

Table 8-10 Average Ideological Positions of Senate Party Coalitions, 80th-114th Congresses, 1947-2015

Congress	Entire chamber	Democrats	Republicans	Nonsouthern Democrats	Southern Democrats
80th (1947)	0.1	-0.041	0.226	-0.165	0.064
81st (1949)	0.031	-0.108	0.208	-0.198	0
82nd (1951)	0.069	-0.078	0.224	-0.18	0.016
83rd (1953)	0.072	-0.086	0.239	-0.193	0.004
84th (1955)	0.039	-0.147	0.253	-0.273	-0.044
85th (1957)	0.027	-0.181	0.248	-0.305	-0.052
86th (1959)	-0.062	-0.229	0.24	-0.326	-0.055
87th (1961)	-0.055	-0.248	0.264	-0.364	-0.045
88th (1963)	-0.098	-0.27	0.271	-0.373	-0.068
89th (1965)	-0.104	-0.283	0.274	-0.379	-0.087
90th (1967)	-0.099	-0.289	0.236	-0.361	-0.138
91st (1969)	-0.058	-0.285	0.234	-0.361	-0.129
92nd (1971)	-0.041	-0.278	0.228	-0.35	-0.131
93rd (1973)	-0.058	-0.313	0.255	-0.375	-0.138
94th (1975)	-0.083	-0.305	0.252	-0.371	-0.134
95th (1977)	-0.103	-0.301	0.235	-0.371	-0.14
96th (1979)	-0.075	-0.297	0.244	-0.344	-0.187
97th (1981)	0.021	-0.284	0.272	-0.324	-0.192
98th (1983)	0.021	-0.288	0.274	-0.327	-0.198
99th (1985)	0.015	-0.3	0.285	-0.338	-0.21
100th (1987)	-0.031	-0.307	0.286	-0.351	-0.218
101st (1989)	-0.033	-0.305	0.299	-0.338	-0.228
102nd (1991)	-0.041	-0.313	0.31	-0.345	-0.235
103rd (1993)	-0.041	-0.322	0.33	-0.354	-0.23
104th (1995)	0.029	-0.333	0.35	-0.354	-0.25
105th (1997)	0.051	-0.348	0.385	-0.364	-0.272
106th (1999)	0.051	-0.336	0.376	-0.363	-0.223
107th (2001)	0.028	-0.334	0.39	-0.359	-0.221
108th (2003)	0.036	-0.331	0.38	-0.356	-0.221
109th (2005)	0.074	-0.345	0.417	-0.355	-0.238
110th (2007)	0.053	-0.337	0.441	-0.349	-0.224
111th (2009)	-0.021	-0.345	0.459	-0.361	-0.222
112th (2011)	0.056	-0.341	0.511	-0.355	-0.229
113th (2013)	0.023	-0.371	0.535	-0.387	-0.237
114th (2015)	0.116	-0.388	0.551	-0.397	-0.256

Note: Data in this table has been changed from previous versions. See errata for more detail.

Source: This table uses ideological scores based on members' voting records developed by political scientists Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal, available at voteview.com. The Poole-Rosenthal DW-NOMINATE scores can be viewed at voteview.com. A positive score denotes a conservative ideology, while a negative score denotes a liberal one. Scores closest to zero reflect the most centrist ideologies, while more extreme scores reflect stronger conservative or liberal ideologies.