

Chapter 4: Congressional Committee Data
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Table 4-1 Number of Committees in the
Senate and House, 84th - 116th
Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Senate	House	Total ^a
84th (1955 - 1956)	133	130	242
90th (1967 - 1968)	155	185	315
92nd (1971 - 1972)	181	175	333
94th (1975 - 1976)	205	204	385
96th (1979 - 1980)	130	193	314
97th (1981 - 1982)	136	174	300
98th (1983 - 1984)	137	172	299
99th (1985 - 1986)	120	191	301
100th (1987 - 1988)	118	192	298
101st (1989 - 1990)	118	189	295
102nd (1991 - 1992)	119	185	284
103rd (1993 - 1994)	111	146	252
104th (1995 - 1996)	92	110	198
105th (1997 - 1998)	92	112	200
106th (1999 - 2000)	94	111	201
107th (2001 - 2002)	91	116	203
108th (2003 - 2004)	92	122	210
109th (2005 - 2006)	92	120	212
110th (2007 - 2008)	96	126	218
111th (2009 - 2010)	98	128	222
112th (2011 - 2012)	98	130	223
113th (2013 - 2014)	92	122	210
114th (2015 - 2016)	91	126	213
115th (2017 - 2018)	92	122	214
116th (2019 - 2020)	92	130	218

Note: "Committees" include standing committees, subcommittees of standing committees, select and special committees, subcommittees of select and special committees, joint committees, and subcommittees of joint committees.

a. The total is less than for the Senate and House combined because joint panels count only once.

Source: The Almanac of American Politics (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Group, various editions); U.S. House of Representatives, <http://www.house.gov>; U.S. Senate, <http://www.senate.gov>.

Table 4-2 Number and Type of House Committees, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Standing committees	Subcommittees of standing committees	Select and special committees	Subcommittees		Joint committees ^c	Subcommittees of joint committees
				of select and special committees	of select and special committees		
84th (1955 - 1956)	19	83	2	5	10	11	
90th (1967 - 1968)	20	133	1	6	10	15	
92nd (1971 - 1972)	21	120	3	8	8	15	
94th (1975 - 1976)	22	151	3	4	7	17	
96th (1979 - 1980)	22	149 ^a	5	8	4	5	
97th (1981 - 1982)	22	132	3	7	4	6	
98th (1983 - 1984)	22	130	3	7	4	6	
99th (1985 - 1986)	22	142	5	12	4	6	
100th (1987 - 1988)	22	140 ^b	6	12	4	8	
101st (1989 - 1990)	22	138 ^b	5	12	4	8	
102nd (1991 - 1992)	22	135 ^b	5	11	4	8	
103rd (1993 - 1994)	22	115	1	3	5	0	
104th (1995 - 1996)	19	84	1	2	4	0	
105th (1997 - 1998)	19	86	1	2	4	0	
106th (1999 - 2000)	19	85	1	2	4	0	
107th (2001 - 2002)	19	89	1	3	4	0	
108th (2003 - 2004)	19	88	2	9	4	0	
109th (2005 - 2006)	20	92	1	4	4	0	
110th (2007 - 2008)	20	97	1	4	4	0	
111th (2009 - 2010)	20	98	2	4	4	0	
112th (2011 - 2012)	20	101	1	3	5	0	
113th (2013 - 2014)	20	94	1	3	4	0	
114th (2015 - 2016)	20	95	2	5	4	0	
115th (2017 - 2018)	20	92	2	4	6	0	
116th (2019 - 2020)	20	99	3	4	4	0	

- a. This number includes nine budget task forces and the Welfare and Pension Plans Task Force (of the Subcommittee on Labor Management Relations of the Education and Labor Committee).
- b. This number includes panels and task forces only if the committee has no subcommittees.
- c. Joint Select committees are only counted as joint committees for the purposes of this chapter.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, *Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); *Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide*, *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, various issues; U.S. House of Representatives, <http://www.house.gov>.

Table 4-3 Number and Type of Senate Committees, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Standing committees	Subcommittees of standing committees	Select and special committees	Subcommittees		Joint committees ^a	Subcommittees of joint committees
				of select and special committees	of select and special committees		
84th (1955 - 1956)	15	88	3	6	6	10	11
90th (1967 - 1968)	16	99	3	12	12	10	15
92nd (1971 - 1972)	17	123	5	13	13	8	15
94th (1975 - 1976)	18	140	6	17	17	7	17
96th (1979 - 1980)	15	91	5	10	10	4	5
97th (1981 - 1982)	15	94	5	12	12	4	6
98th (1983 - 1984)	16	103	4	4	4	4	6
99th (1985 - 1986)	16	90	4	0	0	4	6
100th (1987 - 1988)	16	85	5	0	0	4	8
101st (1989 - 1990)	16	86	4	0	0	4	8
102nd (1991 - 1992)	16	87	4	0	0	4	8
103rd (1993 - 1994)	17	86	3	0	0	5	0
104th (1995 - 1996)	17	68	4	0	0	4	0
105th (1997 - 1998)	17	68	4	0	0	4	0
106th (1999 - 2000)	17	68	4	0	0	4	0
107th (2001 - 2002)	17	68	3	0	0	3	0
108th (2003 - 2004)	17	68	3	0	0	4	0
109th (2005 - 2006)	17	72	3	0	0	4	0
110th (2007 - 2008)	17	72	3	0	0	4	0
111th (2009 - 2010)	17	74	3	0	0	4	0
112th (2011 - 2012)	17	73	3	0	0	5	0
113th (2013 - 2014)	17	72	3	0	0	4	0
114th (2015 - 2016)	17	67	3	0	0	4	0
115th (2017 - 2018)	17	68	3	0	0	6	0
116th (2019 - 2020)	17	68	3	0	0	4	0

Note: Previous updates to Vital Statistics have treated the Indian Affairs Committee inconsistently between Congresses. See errata document for standardization changes that occurred during the November 2020 update.

a. Joint Select committees are only counted as joint committees for the purposes of this chapter.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide, Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; U.S. Senate, <http://www.senate.gov>.

Table 4-4 Committee Assignments for Representatives, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Mean no. of standing committee assignments	Mean no. of subcommittees of standing committee assignments	Mean no. of other committee assignments ^a	Total
84th (1955 - 1956)	1.2	1.6	0.2	3.0
92nd (1971 - 1972)	1.5	3.2	0.4	5.1
94th (1975 - 1976)	1.8	4.0	0.4	6.2
96th (1979 - 1980)	1.7	3.6	0.5	5.8
97th (1981 - 1982)	1.7	3.4	0.4	5.5
98th (1983 - 1984)	1.7	3.6	0.5	5.8
99th (1985 - 1986)	1.8	4.0	0.8	6.6
100th (1987 - 1988)	1.7	3.8	1.0 ^b	6.5
101st (1989 - 1990)	1.8	3.9	1.1 ^b	6.8
102nd (1991 - 1992)	1.9	4.0	0.9 ^b	6.8
103rd (1993 - 1994)	2.0	3.7	0.2	5.9
104th (1995 - 1996)	1.8	2.9	0.1	4.8
105th (1997 - 1998)	1.8	3.2	0.1	5.1
106th (1999 - 2000)	1.9	3.2	0.1	5.2
107th (2001 - 2002)	1.9	3.6	0.1	5.6
108th (2003 - 2004)	1.9	3.5	0.2	5.6
109th (2005 - 2006)	2	2.9	0.2	5.1
110th (2007 - 2008)	1.9	2.8	0.2	4.9
111th (2009 - 2010)	1.9	3.8	0.2	5.9
112th (2011 - 2012)	1.7	3.4	0.2	5.3
113th (2013 - 2014)	1.8	3.4	0.2	5.4
114th (2015 - 2016)	1.7	3.4	0.3	5.4
115th (2017 - 2018)	1.7	3.5	0.1	5.3
116th (2019 - 2020)	1.8	3.5	0.1	5.4

- a. Other committees include select and special committees, subcommittees of select and special committees, joint committees, and subcommittees of joint committees.
- b. This number includes task forces when the committee has no other subcommittees.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide, Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; U.S. House of Representatives, <http://www.house.gov>.

Table 4-5 Committee Assignments for Senators, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Mean no. of standing committee assignments	Mean no. of subcommittees of standing committee assignments	Mean no. of other committee assignments ^a	Total
84th (1955 - 1956)	2.2	4.8	0.9	7.9
92nd (1971 - 1972)	2.5	9.5	3.3	15.3
94th (1975 - 1976)	2.5	11.0	4.1	17.6
96th (1979 - 1980)	2.3	6.6	1.5	10.4
97th (1981 - 1982)	2.5	6.7	1.5	10.7
98th (1983 - 1984)	2.9	7.5	1.2	11.6
99th (1985 - 1986)	2.8	6.9	0.9	10.6
100th (1987 - 1988)	2.9	7.0	1.2	11.1
101st (1989 - 1990)	3.0	7.0	1.1	11.1
102nd (1991 - 1992)	2.9	7.4	1.1	11.4
103rd (1993 - 1994)	3.2	7.8	0.8	11.8
104th (1995 - 1996)	3.1	6.2	0.9	10.2
105th (1997 - 1998)	3.1	6.5	0.8	10.4
106th (1999 - 2000)	3.2	6.8	0.7	10.7
107th (2001 - 2002) ^b	3.4	8.5	0.6	12.4
108th (2003 - 2004)	3.5	8	0.7	12.2
109th (2005 - 2006)	3.3	9.3	0.7	13.3
110th (2007 - 2008)	3.4	7.7	0.6	11.7
111th (2009 - 2010)	3.6	8.9	0.7	13.2
112th (2011 - 2012)	3.5	8.6	0.8	12.9
113th (2013 - 2014)	3.1	7	0.7	10.8
114th (2015 - 2016)	3.6	8.5	0.6	12.7
115th (2017 - 2018)	3.7	9.4	0.8	13.9
116th (2019 - 2020)	3.5	8.6	0.8	12.9

Note: In the November 2020 update, multiple committee classifications were changed to standardize the treatment of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and to add previously uncounted Joint Select committees in various Congresses. These changes may have caused related data to change for the 104th, 105th, 107th, 111th, 112th, 113th, and 115th Congresses. For a detailed explanation of the changes, see the errata document.

a. Other committees include select and special committees, subcommittees of select and special committees, joint committees, and subcommittees of joint committees.

b. These numbers are correct as of the start of the 107th Congress and do not reflect changes in committee assignments that occurred after Jim Jeffords (VT) left the Republican Party to become an Independent, shifting control of the Senate to the Democrats.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, *Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); *Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide*, *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, various issues; U.S. Senate, <http://www.senate.gov>.

Table 4-6 Majority Party Chairmanships of House Committees and Subcommittees, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Party in majority	Standing Committees and subcommittees				All committees and subcommittees		
		No. of majority party members in the House	No. chairing standing committees and subcommittees	No. with two or more chairmanships	% chairing standing committees and subcommittees	No. chairing all committees and subcommittees ^a	No. with two or more chairmanships	% chairing all committees and subcommittees ^a
84th (1955 - 1956)	D	232	63	18	27.2	75	22	32.3
90th (1967 - 1968)	D	247	111	32	44.9	117	38	47.4
92nd (1971 - 1972)	D	254	120	25	47.2	131	31	51.6
94th (1975 - 1976)	D	289	142	24	49.1	150	28	51.9
96th (1979 - 1980)	D	276	144	19	52.2	149	28	54.0
97th (1981 - 1982)	D	243	121	16	49.8	125	26	51.4
98th (1983 - 1984)	D	267	124	23	46.4	127	33	47.6
99th (1985 - 1986)	D	253	129	27	51.0	131	37	51.8
100th (1987 - 1988)	D	258	128	28	49.6	132 ^b	42	51.2
101st (1989 - 1990)	D	260	134	26	51.5	137	38	52.7
102nd (1991 - 1992)	D	267	130	25	48.7	135 ^b	37	50.6
103rd (1993 - 1994)	D	258	113	19	43.8	116	22	45.0
104th (1995 - 1996)	R	230	102	1	44.3	103	4	44.8
105th (1997 - 1998)	R	227	101	4	44.5	102	9	44.9
106th (1999 - 2000)	R	223	100	2	44.8	101	6	45.3
107th (2001 - 2002)	R	221	108	1	48.4	111	2	49.3
108th (2003 - 2004)	R	229	104	2	45.4	112	6	48.9
109th (2005 - 2006)	R	231	109	3	47.2	114	6	49.4
110th (2007 - 2008)	D	233	112	4	48.1	117	7	50.2
111th (2009 - 2010)	D	256	115	2	44.9	121	5	47.3
112th (2011 - 2012)	R	241	121	1	50.2	123	4	51.0
113th (2013 - 2014)	R	232	111	4	47.8	114	6	49.1
114th (2015 - 2016)	R	247	113 ^c	1	45.3	121	4	49.0
115th (2017 - 2018)	R	241	112	0	46.5	115	4	47.7
116th (2019 - 2020)	D	235	102	6	43.4	109	7	46.4

a. This number includes standing committees, subcommittees of standing committees, select and special committees, subcommittees of select and special committees, joint committees, and subcommittees of joint committees.

b. This number includes task forces when the committee has no other subcommittees.

c. At the time of data collection, two subcommittee chairmanships were vacant.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide, Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; U.S. House of Representatives, <http://www.house.gov>.

Table 4-7

Majority Party Chairmanships of Senate Committees and Subcommittees, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Congress	Party in majority	No. of majority party members in Senate	No. chairing standing committees and subcommittees	% chairing standing committees and subcommittees	Average no. of standing committees and subcommittees chaired by majority members	No. chairing all committees and subcommittees ^a	% chairing all committees and subcommittees ^a	Average no. of all committees and subcommittees chaired by majority members
84th (1955 - 1956)	D	48	42	87.5	1.8	42	87.5	2.0
90th (1967 - 1968)	D	64	55	85.9	1.8	58	90.6	2.1
92nd (1971 - 1972)	D	55 ^b	51	92.7	2.6	52	94.5	2.9
94th (1975 - 1976)	D	62 ^b	57	91.9	2.4	57	91.9	2.9
96th (1979 - 1980)	D	59 ^b	58	98.3	1.8	58	98.3	2.1
97th (1981 - 1982)	R	53	51	96.2	1.9	52	98.1	2.3
98th (1983 - 1984)	R	54	52	96.3	1.9	52	96.3	2.5
99th (1985 - 1986)	R	53	49	92.5	1.9	49	92.5	2.0
100th (1987 - 1988)	D	54	47	87.0	1.8	47	87.0	2.0
101st (1989 - 1990)	D	55	46	83.6	1.9	46	83.6	1.9
102nd (1991 - 1992)	D	56	50	89.3	1.8	50	89.3	2.0
103rd (1993 - 1994)	D	57	46	80.7	1.8	46	80.7	1.9
104th (1995 - 1996)	R	54	44	81.5	1.8	44	81.5	1.9
105th (1997 - 1998)	R	55	48	87.3	1.7	48	87.3	1.9
106th (1999 - 2000)	R	55	53	96.4	1.6	53	96.4	1.7
107th (2001 - 2002) ^c	R	50	49	98.0	1.7	49	98.0	1.8
108th (2003 - 2004)	R	51	51	100.0	1.7	51	100.0	1.8
109th (2005 - 2006)	R	55	52	94.5	1.6	53	96.4	1.7
110th (2007 - 2008)	D	51 ^d	40	78.4	1.6	40	78.4	1.7
111th (2009 - 2010)	D	60 ^d	48	80.0	1.5	48	80.0	1.7
112th (2011 - 2012)	D	53 ^d	48	90.6	1.6	49	92.4	1.7
113th (2013 - 2014)	D	53 ^e	46	86.8	1.6	47	88.7	1.7
114th (2015 - 2016)	R	54	50	92.6	1.6	51	94.4	1.7
115th (2017 - 2018)	R	52	49	94.2	1.6	50	96.2	1.7
116th (2019 - 2020)	R	53	48	90.6	1.5	49	92.5	1.7

- a. This number includes standing committees, subcommittees of standing committees, select and special committees, subcommittees of select and special committees, joint committees, and subcommittees of joint committees.
- b. This number includes Harry Byrd, Jr., who was elected as an Independent.
- c. These numbers are correct as of the start of the 107th Congress and do not reflect changes in committee assignments that occurred after Jim Jeffords (VT) left the Republican Party to become an Independent, shifting control of the Senate to the Democrats.
- d. This number includes Joe Lieberman and Bernard Sanders, who were elected as Independents.
- e. This number includes Bernard Sanders and Angus King, who were elected as Independents.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide, Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; U.S. Senate, <http://www.senate.gov>.

Table 4-8

Southern Chairmanships of House and Senate Standing Committees, 84th - 116th Congresses, 1955 - 2019

Year	<i>House</i>					<i>Senate</i>				
	Party Control	Number of southern chairmen	% of chairmanships held by southerners	% of exclusive committees chaired by southerners ^a	% of majority party from the South	Party Control	Number of southern chairmen	% of chairmanships held by southerners	% of exclusive committees chaired by southerners ^a	% of majority party from the South
84th (1955 - 1956)	D	12	63	67	43	D	8	53	50	46
90th (1967 - 1968)	D	10	50	100	35	D	9	56	100	28
92nd (1971 - 1972)	D	8	38	100	31	D	9	53	100	30
94th (1975 - 1976)	D	9	41	33	28	D	6	33	100	27
96th (1979 - 1980)	D	5	23	33	28	D	4	27	50	28
97th (1981 - 1982)	D	6	27	33	29	R	3	20	25	19
98th (1983 - 1984)	D	7	32	67	30	R	3	19	25	20
99th (1985 - 1986)	D	8	36	67	29	R	2	13	0	19
100th (1987 - 1988)	D	7	31	67	29	D	7	44	75	30
101st (1989 - 1990)	D	8	36	67	29	D	6	38	50	27
102nd (1991 - 1992)	D	8	36	33	29	D	6	38	50	27
103rd (1993 - 1994)	D	6	27	33	33	D	6	35	25	26
104th (1995 - 1996)	R	4	21	67	25	R	2	12	50	25
105th (1997 - 1998)	R	3	17	67	31	R	4	24	50	29
106th (1999 - 2000)	R	6	32	67	32	R	4	24	50	25
107th (2001 - 2002)	R	3	16	33	32	R ^b	4	25	50	26
108th (2003 - 2004)	R	4	21	33	33	R	4	24	25	26
109th (2005 - 2006)	R	4	21	0	33	R	4	24	50	26
110th (2007 - 2008)	D	3	15	0	26	D	0	0	0	8
111th (2009 - 2010)	D	2	10	0	21.1	D	2	12.5	0	11.7
112th (2011 - 2012)	R	7	35	0	39.2	D	1	6.3	0	11.8
113th (2013 - 2014)	R	4	20	33	31.5	D	2	12.5	0	13.2
114th (2015 - 2016)	R	10	50	67	55.9	R	6	35.3	50	40.7
115th (2017 - 2018)	R	12	63	67	41.1	R	5	29.4	50	36.5
116th (2019 - 2020)	D	4	20	0	21.7	R	6	37.5	25	35.9

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

a. In the House these include Ways and Means, Rules, and Appropriations; in the Senate these include Appropriations, Finance, Foreign Relations, and Armed Services.

b. These numbers are correct as of the start of the 107th Congress and do not reflect changes in committee assignments that occurred after Jim Jeffords (VT) left the Republican Party to become an Independent, shifting control of the Senate to the Democrats.

Source: Nelson, Garrison, *Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Committee Jurisdictions and Member Rosters* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1993); *Congressional Quarterly Committee Guide*, *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, various issues; U.S. House of Representatives, <http://www.house.gov>; U.S. Senate, <http://www.senate.gov>.