

## Chapter 1 : ROONEY, John James - Biographical Information

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Congress is made up of two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each state is allotted two Senators while the number of representatives each state has is determined according to population. There are seats and with the onset of the year census, redistribution of those seats take place so that a state may gain or lose the number of representatives it had for the previous 10 years. The Senate and the House each have their own particular official and unofficial requirements for election. Constitution lays out the age qualifications for being elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate. To be elected as a member of the House of Representatives, a person must be at least 25 years old. To be elected to the Senate, a candidate must be at least 30 years old. Constitution always lays out requirements for U. To get elected as a member of the House of Representatives, the candidate must have been a United States citizen for the previous seven years. To get elected to the U. Senate the candidate must have been a U. Residency For election to both the House and Senate, the candidate must be a resident of the state he is representing. Things get a little strange for members of the House of Representatives, however. While a member of Congress must be a resident of the entire state he is representing, he does not actually have to live in the district that elected him. Incumbency While not an official requirement, history has proved that it is far easier to maintain a seat in Congress than to beat an incumbent. Except for those rare elections where a sweeping change takes place, the average election witnesses 90 percent of all incumbents being voted back into office. The rate of incumbency is usually even higher for members of the House. Race Race is also not an official requirement, but historically speaking white candidates have a far greater chance of being elected than minority candidates. The most racially diverse Congress in U. Gender Another unofficial requirement to get elected to Congress is to be male. There is no law against women being elected, obviously, but the th Congress again is the most diverse Congress in terms of gender. The number of women in that Congress, though still minute compared to the number of men, is positively gargantuan in comparison to the gender gap that has traditionally existed. The th Congress featured 68 women out of in the Senate and House combined. Money It may not be written into the Constitution, but with each passing year it becomes clearer that one of the unwritten requirements of getting elected is to have money. His writing has been referenced in books ranging from "The Reckless Life

**Chapter 2 : Library Resource Finder: Table of Contents for: Citizens look at Congress**

*The former Secretary of State discusses the Congressional committee system and the problem of legislative-executive relations, and points to some of the weaknesses he sees in our present mode of operation, especially in the field of foreign affairs.*

Challenges of reelection[ edit ] Candidate Evan Bayh speaking to voters in a reelection bid in Every two years a congressperson faces reelection, and as a result there is a strong tendency for a congressperson seeking reelection to focus their publicity efforts at their home districts. A law in abolished all at-large elections when representatives are chosen by voters in the entire state rather than an electoral district except in less populous states entitled to only one Representative. Nevertheless, congresspersons in office, or incumbents , have strong advantages over challengers. If congressional districts are drawn fairly left then races are competitive; red dots representing Republicans and blue dots Democrats are split evenly with eight voters in each district, and neither Republicans nor Democrats have an advantage. In this case, Democrats are likely to win three seats while Republicans only one. Here is the original cartoon "The Gerry-Mander" leading to the coining of the term Gerrymander. District boundaries were creatively drawn by the Massachusetts legislature to favor the incumbent Democratic-Republican party candidates of Governor Elbridge Gerry over the Federalists in Advantages which incumbents enjoy over challengers, and which have been a source of criticism and controversy, are access to campaign contributions as well as gerrymandering [11] which give incumbents an unfair advantage, according to some critics. The consensus is that negative advertising is effective since "the messages tend to stick. So why is there such apathy on the part of voters, particularly towards Congress? Prominent Founding Fathers writing in the Federalist Papers believed it was "essential to liberty that the government in general should have a common interest with the people," and felt that a bond between the people and the representatives was "particularly essential. Why explains public attitudes towards Congress? Zeliger suggested that the "size, messiness, virtues, and vices that make Congress so interesting also create enormous barriers to our understanding the institution Roberts, and Ryan J. Vander Wielen suggest that despite the criticism, "Congress is a remarkably resilient institution Still, we are not exaggerating when we say that Congress is essential to American democracy. We would not have survived as a nation without a Congress that represented the diverse interests of our society, conducted a public debate on the major issues, found compromises to resolve conflicts peacefully, and limited the power of our executive, military, and judicial institutions Also, members of Congress often appear self-serving as they pursue their political careers and represent interests and reflect values that are controversial. Capitolâ€™to discuss legislation as well as sign documents. Political scientists have noted how a prolonged period marked by narrow majorities in both chambers of Congress has affected partisanship. Smaller states and bigger states[ edit ] When the Constitution was ratified in , the ratio of the populations of large states to small states was roughly twelveâ€™toâ€™one. The Connecticut Compromise gave every state, large and small, an equal vote in the Senate. But since , the population disparity between large and small states has grown; in , for example, California had seventy times the population of Wyoming. University of Texas law professor Sanford Levinson criticizes the imbalance of power in the Senate as causing a steady redistribution of resources from blue states to red states and from "large states to small states. Congresspersons often provide constituent services to people in their district. Sometimes this involves attending local meetings or events. In the photo, people celebrate the opening of an educational center in Iowa. Congressperson Dave Loebsack sent assistant Jessica Moeller center to represent him in this ceremony. Congresspersons and constituents[ edit ] A major aspect of the role for a Senator and a representative consists of services to his or her constituency. Often the incoming messages are not from concerned citizens but are barrages of electronic mail and interactive video designed to pressure the congressperson and his or her staff. Members of Congress want to leave a positive impression on the constituent, rather than leave them disgruntled. Thus, their offices will often be responsive, and go out of their way to help steer the citizen through the intricacies of the bureaucracy. In this role, members and their staffers act as an ombudsman at the Federal level. This unofficial job has become increasingly time-consuming, and

has significantly reduced the time that members have for the preparation or inspection of bills. For example, Erika Hodell-Cotti talked about how her congressperson, Frank Wolf, sent her letters when her children got awards; the congressperson helped her brothers win admission to the West Point Military Academy. Oftentimes citizens contact member offices that do not represent them. Because resources for helping non-constituents are limited, an additional component of constituent service becomes directing citizens to their assigned representative in Congress. As Morris Fiorina notes, the involvement of the legislative branch in the ombudsman process carries one major advantage: Representative to handle constituent services. One way to categorize lawmakers is by their general motivation, according to political scientist Richard Fenno: Accordingly, some academics suggest there is a culture of risk avoidance as well as a need to make policy decisions behind closed-doors [58] along with efforts to focus their publicity efforts at their home districts. Congress serves two, not wholly compatible, purposes "representation and lawmaking. Members of the House and Senate serve individual districts or states, yet they must act collectively to make law for the nation as a whole. Collective action on divisive issues entails bargaining and compromise " among the members of each house, between the House and the Senate, and between Congress and the president. For compromise to be possible, members sometimes retreat from their commitments to their individual state or district. Determining who must compromise " and how to get them to do so " is the essence of legislative politics. Rakove, Alan Taylor; et al. *The Building of Democracy*". Zelizer editor Michael Schudson author *The media became increasingly important in the work of Congress in the late twentieth century* Sabato September 26, Sullivan July 24, *The Library of Congress*. A law enacted in abolished all at-large elections except in those less populous states entitled to only one Representative. An at-large election is one in which a Representative is elected by the voters of the entire state rather than by the voters in a congressional district within the state. FECA restricted the size of contributions that individuals, parties, and political action committees PACs could make to candidates for Congress. Because PACs may contribute more than individuals, there is a strong incentive to create PACs, which grew in number from in late to more than 4, in the mids and have remained just over 4, in number since then..

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Those reasons include his inability to get along well with his colleagues , his disdain for working with his opposition , his lack of respect for the needs of women , his cozy relationship with lobbyists and special interests , his office-hopping ambition , his failure to accomplish anything substantive , his evident hypocrisy , and his failure to adhere to his stated principles. With infinite time, we could list dozens more reasons why we feel strongly that he is unfit for the office he currently occupies. He has fought for corporate interests, the same ones that fund his campaigns, without regard for their impact on the people he represents. His disinclination to learn about science forces him to deny climate change , deny the effects of the Zika virus , and misunderstand many of our most pressing national issues. Mick Mulvaney has proved himself skilled at fingerpointing at John Boehner, at President Obama, at fellow Republicans, at Congressional Democrats but has rarely taken responsibility for his own failings as a Congressman. He believes that those who wish to come to the United States to work should be given a path to do so and a chance to have legal status. He believes that legislators often overstay their welcome , and use their incumbency as a means to keep themselves and their plush positions on a fairly permanent basis. It is this belief of his that we wish to touch upon presently. Mick Mulvaney has occupied his seat in Congress for three full terms. During that time, he has made no appreciable impact on his district nor has he improved the lives of his constituents in any measurable way. He has not been a force in bringing jobs to this district. He has not used his ability to write and pass legislation responsibly, instead penning unpassable bills that support special interests and failing to build consensus for bills that fairly represent his core beliefs. Mulvaney is a fairly talented individual. However, his talents as a legislator are sorely lacking. The position for which he seeks a fourth term requires the ability to make positive impressions, build coalitions, and read the needs of his constituents. He has shown no ability to do any of these things. We understand Mick Mulvaney is a better than average golfer too. There is a better alternative this election. Mulvaney has in short supply. Fran Person is just 34 years old, but he has seen more world capitals, been in more high-level meetings, and witnessed more personal diplomacy than Mick Mulvaney has in his career. Detractors may point out that Fran Person has never occupied public office before. Alternatively, some may see this as a benefit. Fran Person has a competitive spirit and does not shy away from a fight. As one of seven children, six of whom played Division I football, competitiveness was inculcated into him at a young age. That same competitiveness will undoubtedly continue to inspire Mr. Person with an infectious desire to not only learn the job of a congressman, but to be the best possible congressman for the citizens of the fifth Congressional district. His virtues are perfectly compatible with that of an ideal elected official: His faith is strong and his belief in the importance of teamwork is borne out on his resume. Biden would be the envy of any member of Congress, except perhaps for Mr. Mulvaney, who believes he can work all on his own. From Sumter to Newberry, from Gaffney to York, from Fort Mill to Winnsboro, this district is diverse, growing, and full of good people. Those people deserve a representative who believes doing good is better than doing nothing. If you believe that South Carolina is best served by a team player, if you believe this district deserves an energetic and moral representative to work for its families and business people, and if you believe that we can do better than what we have seen for the last six years, I encourage a vote for Mr. To find your polling place, visit [www. Author mickmulvaney](http://www.Authormickmulvaney.com) Posted on.

### Chapter 4 : Contacting the Congress Former Website Information

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### Chapter 5 : Requirements for Becoming a Member of Congress | Synonym

*Spaces will separate tags. Use quotes for multi-word tags.*

### Chapter 6 : STAGGERS, Harley Orrin - Biographical Information

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### Chapter 8 : A citizen looks at Congress - Details - Trove

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*United States Congress and citizens describes the relation between the public and lawmakers. Essentially, American citizens elect members of Congress every two years who have the duty to represent their interests in the national legislature of the United States.*