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Chapter 1 : SparkNotes: Congress: The Functions of Congress

Get this from a library! Congressman, constituents, and contributors: determinants of roll call voting in the House of Representatives. [James B Kau; Paul H Rubin].

He began his public service by being elected to the Georgia General Assembly in United States Congress In Congress, David Scott is a strong voice for jobs, healthcare, education, our veterans, our children, and transportation. He has authored several laws including student loan repayment assistance for law students who become public prosecutors and defenders so that top attorneys will be attracted to public service. Flag Code as a day of special significance. In , he successfully led a coalition to end the nomination of Michael Boggs to lifetime appointment as a federal judge. Respect for veterans is important to Congressman Scott. After scandals were revealed at the Atlanta VA, Congressman Scott worked in a bipartisan effort to pass major reforms of the VA and he was the first Democrat to call for the resignation of the VA Secretary. He authored bills that later became law to allow veterans and their children to receive in-state tuition. He also co-authored a law to help increase the number of mental health professionals at the VA by paying for their student loans. As a Member of the Financial Services Committee, Congressman Scott has stood with homeowners and neighborhoods during the financial crisis. He worked to enact the program to provide struggling homeowners who are unemployed with up to 18 months mortgage assistance. Congressman Scott authored a law to allow insurance agents and brokers to have multi-state insurance licensing, which will provide more options for consumers. After major flooding hit metro Atlanta in , he obtained financial support for his district and wrote the law to allow for flood insurance premiums to be paid in monthly installments rather than one lump sum. He ensured that Georgians receive two free credit reports each year, rather than the one annual report available to most of the country. He co-authored a law to reform the federal dairy program, which will keep prices affordable to consumers. He supports land grant universities such as the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University , recognizing the significance they play in fostering research and education, and improving the agricultural economy. Congressman Scott has provided strong leadership in passing a resolution at the NATO meeting, gaining the support of 27 other nations, to join the United States and Israel to stop Iran from securing a nuclear bomb. Back Home in Georgia Congressman David Scott spearheads a wide range of local initiatives that benefit his constituents. He sponsors annual jobs fairs that have secured over 7, jobs for his constituents. Congressman Scott also hosts an annual health fair, bringing free healthcare exams to help reduce breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, AIDS, and other healthcare issues. He has hosted major home foreclosure prevention and mortgage assistance events, helping over 4, constituents find help keeping their homes. At age 10, his paternal grandmother died and David was moved back to the care of his maternal grandmother on the farm in South Carolina for one year. Then at age 11, David Scott was relocated to Scarsdale, New York where his parents found another job as live-in domestics for a wealthy family. However, this family allowed David to live with his parents in Scarsdale, marking the first period in his life that he actually lived day-to-day with his parents. At age 13, David moved with his parents to Daytona Beach, Florida where they bought a home and his father started a garbage collection business. Upon graduation, he was awarded scholarships to the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and he earned his MBA degree with honors in He represented several major corporations as clients. In , he was elected as a Georgia State Representative, where he served from to As State Representative, he authored laws to provide for gun safety, including creating background checks for gun purchases. He also made it a felony to knowingly sell or provide a firearm to a child or minor and held parents and guardians responsible for keeping their firearms away from children. Representative Scott helped create Peachcare, the health insurance program for children. He wrote the Georgia law that gives women with breast cancer surgery the right to determine their length of stay in the hospital and level of medical care in consultation with their physician, rather than having insurance companies make such critical health decisions. He authored the law to limit and restrict landfills in

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residential neighborhoods, cleaning rivers and streams, and protecting underground water aquifers. He also passed the state law to provide sex education and AIDS prevention instruction in Georgia public schools. Their family includes two daughters, Dayna and Marcy; two grandchildren, Kimani and Kaylin; a son-in-law Kwame; and brother-in-law and good friend Hank Aaron. David Scott is the son of a minister and a man of strong faith who loves the Lord. He regularly gives guest sermons in area churches.

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Chapter 2 : Congressman, Constituents, and Contributors : James B. Kau :

*Congressman, Constituents, and Contributors: Determinants of Roll Call Voting in the House of Representatives (STUDIES IN PUBLIC CHOICE) [James B. Kau, P.H. Rubin] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

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

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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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Chapter 3 : Find Your Representative | calendrierdelascience.com

In a sense, this book might seem like a strange undertaking for two economists. The material seems to be much closer to political science than to economics; our topic is the determinants of congressional voting.

Proper Use of Campaign Funds and Resources Campaign resources – campaign funds, as well as the goods and services acquired with campaign funds – are an entirely separate set of resources available to Members. This section addresses the rules to which House Members and their campaign staff are subject in their use of campaign resources. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner shall keep his campaign funds separate from his personal funds; b may not convert campaign funds to personal use in excess of an amount representing reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures; and c except as provided in clause 1 b of rule XXIV, may not expend funds from his campaign account that are not attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes. In addition, use of campaign funds for official House purposes is limited by provisions of both the House rules and statutory law, including House Rule 24, clause 1 and 2 U. At the beginning of the th Congress, the House rules were amended to permit the use of funds from the principal campaign account to pay for certain, limited types of official expenses. The purpose of the amendment was to conform House rules to current law see section , Pub. The rules generally preclude personal or official use of not only campaign funds, but also certain equipment, goods, or services acquired with campaign funds – including, for example, equipment such as a fax machine or computer, and the services of paid campaign staff. Part , retaining its pre-BCRA personal use regulations, with certain exceptions discussed below. Two points on those rules that are particularly noteworthy. First, in addition to consulting the FEC regulations on the matter of impermissible personal use of campaign funds, the FEC has issued numerous advisory opinions and they constitute an important body of law in this area. However, as detailed earlier in this chapter, Members and staff must bear in mind that no official House resources may be used in support of any campaign-funded activity. Thus, for example, holiday greeting cards that are purchased with campaign funds may not be addressed either in the congressional office or by congressional staff while on official time. The same applies to U. Capitol Historical Society calendars that are purchased with campaign funds. As noted in the text, a Member may use campaign funds to mail holiday greetings to his or her volunteers and contributors. However, a Member may not use campaign funds to send such greetings to family members or personal friends other than those who are also volunteers or contributors , as to do so would constitute a personal use of campaign funds. By and large, these activities may, under House rules, be paid for with campaign funds, provided that the Member determines that the activity would serve a bona fide political purpose and raises no concern about personal use. Charitable or Community Service Projects. Other participants in the event were local businesses, schools, PTAs, and volunteers. The opinion indicates that if such campaign activity were planned, then the donations for the event made by individuals and organizations might be deemed campaign contributions to the Member under the Federal Election Campaign Act FECA , and hence subject to the limitations and prohibitions of FECA. That Advisory Opinion addresses only the requirements of FECA on proper use of campaign funds, and it does not address the applicable provisions of the House rules. The program may be operated by campaign staff, and campaign funds may be used to pay program costs such as for printing. In addition, the program must be conducted in compliance with FEC requirements, and no official House resources may be used in furtherance of the program. Payment of Certain Legal Expenses. Use of campaign funds to pay the legal expenses incurred in other kinds of legal actions may also be permissible. However, campaign funds may not be used when the action is primarily personal in nature, such as a matrimonial action, or could result in a direct personal benefit for the Member. In this regard, under the FEC regulations on proper use of campaign funds, payment of legal expenses is among the uses for which the FEC makes determinations on impermissible personal use on a case-by-case basis. The requirements for the establishment of a legal expense fund are described in Chapter 2 on gifts. Payment of Certain Travel

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Expenses. Under House Rules, campaign funds may be used to pay travel expenses when the primary purpose of the trip is activity that serves a bona fide campaign or political purpose, provided that the outlays are limited to the expenses that are necessarily incurred in engaging in that activity. Thus, quite clearly, campaign funds may be used to pay the expenses of a trip the primary purpose of which is to attend a campaign or political event, or to engage in other campaign activity. The general prohibition on the use of campaign funds for personal travel is discussed in the next section of this chapter. The use of campaign funds for official travel is also discussed below. Notwithstanding the general permissibility of using campaign funds for campaign travel, an amendment to the House Rules enacted during the 59th Congress generally prohibits House Members from using campaign funds as well as official funds and personal funds for travel on a non-commercial aircraft. This prohibition applies to the use of funds from any campaign committee, including funds from a political action committee. Further guidance on the use of non-commercial aircraft is found in the Chapter 3 on travel. There are circumstances in which campaign funds may properly be used to pay travel expenses of not only a Member, but also his or her immediate family members. Campaign funds may also be used to pay spouse travel expenses when the primary purpose of the trip is to accompany the Member at certain non-political events that the Member attends in his or her capacity as a Member. The FEC also approved the use of campaign funds to pay the Hershey travel expenses in a advisory opinion. Payment of Certain Meal Expenses. Campaign funds may be used to pay for a meal in a number of circumstances, including, for example, a meal that constitutes a bona fide campaign fund-raising event, and a meal incident to a bona fide meeting on campaign business. Campaign funds may also be used to pay the meal expenses incurred when a Member or campaign worker is traveling on campaign business. Campaign funds may also be used to pay meal expenses when a Member has a social meal with constituents other than personal friends or relatives of the Member who are visiting Washington. Outlays for meal expenses can, in certain circumstances, raise questions of impermissible personal use of campaign funds. The applicability of the prohibition against personal use of campaign funds to the payment of such expenses is addressed in Chapter 4 of the House Ethics Manual. Receptions and Related Activities for Visiting Constituents. Occasionally when a group of constituents visits Washington, whether to tour or to lobby on legislation, the Member wishes to hold a reception or similar event for the participants. Official House funds may not be used to pay food or beverage expenses related to social activities or social events, including the receptions held by Members in connection with their swearing-in, or on Inauguration Day. However, Members may use their campaign funds to pay the costs of such events. A separate question is whether events of this nature, when paid for with campaign funds, may be held in a House room or office. At times Members wish to send letters or mailings, or make other communications, that are not frankable in content under the House Franking Regulations, and hence may not be created or sent using official House resources. Examples of such communications include messages to constituents that are not official in nature, such as birthday greetings, holiday greetings, and letters of condolence. In addition, while letters of congratulations for a public distinction are frankable, other letters of congratulation, such as for years of service at a business, or retirement, are not. Under House rules, a Member may use campaign funds and resources to create and send cards, letters, and certificates of these types to constituents. However, such materials may not be produced in or sent from any House office, and may not be produced or sent using any other House resource, including office equipment or staff while on official time. In addition, official House resources may not be used to promote the certificates, or in connection with their presentation. Occasionally Members wish to send a letter or mailing endorsing a particular candidate for elective office, or commenting on a labor union organizing campaign or some other kind of labor dispute in their district. As a general matter, campaign funds and resources may likewise be used to create and send letters of this type. However, the letterhead used on such mailings should comply with the guidance on campaign letterhead found near the end of this chapter and may not resemble official letterhead. As a general matter, a Member may use campaign funds to pay for activities in furtherance of a campaign for one of the House leadership offices. Similarly, a Member may use campaign funds or resources to send a mailing

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regarding a leadership race. A Member wishing to use any official House resource in furtherance of a campaign for a House leadership office " should consult with the Committee on House Administration or the Franking Commission, as well as with the Standards Committee, on the extent to which those resources may be used for this purpose. However, when a particular activity related to a leadership race is supported with campaign resources, no official House resources may be devoted to that activity except to the extent noted above. A Member who is sending a mailing on a leadership race decides to pay the printing and mailing expenses with campaign funds. No official staff time or any other House resources may be used in furtherance of the mailing. Examples would include a holiday lunch or a farewell party for a departing staff member. A Member may also use campaign funds to pay for food and beverages for staff in other unusual circumstances, such as when the House is in session late or on a weekend. However, the use of campaign funds to pay for food or beverages for staff in other than special or unusual circumstances may constitute an impermissible use of funds for personal purposes. In addition, in the FEC advised a departing House Member that he could use campaign funds to pay the expenses of moving both his congressional office furnishings and his personal household furnishings and effects back to his home state. As a related matter, FEC regulations provide that campaign funds may be used to defray the costs of winding down the office of a former federal officeholder for a period of six months after he or she leaves office. Use of campaign funds for a gift or donation is permissible only if the outlay serves a bona fide campaign or political purpose, and in this regard, the regulation specifies that a Member may not use campaign funds to make a gift or donation to a family member. In addition, as noted below in the section of this chapter on the use of campaign funds for official purposes, campaign funds may also be used to purchase a gift for visiting foreign dignitaries. Other Permissible Uses of Campaign Funds. Campaign funds may also be used for certain funeral expenses. The key provision of the House rules barring use of campaign funds for personal purposes is House Rule XXIII, clause 6 b which provides that a Member may not convert campaign funds to personal use in excess of an amount representing reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures. Absent a requirement for verification, the prohibition against converting campaign funds to personal use would be nullified in substantial part. Furthermore, the verification requirement should serve to cause Members and their campaign staffs to exercise caution in spending campaign funds, and to ensure that no outlay is for an impermissible personal purpose. Members and their campaign staffs should bear in mind that the verification requirement imposed by the House rules is separate from, and in addition to, whatever recordkeeping requirements are imposed by the Federal Election Commission on federal candidates generally or, with regard to Members who are candidates for a state or local office, the requirements imposed by applicable state or local law. Application of the House Rules. Notwithstanding the variety of circumstances in which impermissible personal use of campaign funds can arise, questions in this area have arisen most frequently regarding certain kinds of campaign outlays, specifically " Borrowing of campaign funds; Expenditures for travel; Expenditures for meals; and Expenditures for the purchase of goods or services, or the rental of property, from the Member or a member of his or her family. As to outlays for travel or meals " as well as outlays for the acquisition of goods or services from themselves or their family members " Members must exercise great care, because such outlays by their nature raise a concern of personal use. Records should be maintained with regard to these kinds of outlays. A book written by a Member on his legislative agenda has been published. The Committee feels that there is no circumstance in which a Member could borrow from his campaign and satisfy the requirement that the use of the funds would exclusively and solely benefit the campaign. Therefore, the Committee takes the firm position that a Member may not borrow funds from his campaign. The act of borrowing shall be construed as a violation of [current House Rule XXIII, clause 6], which requires that all campaign expenditures must be for a bona fide campaign expense. Campaign funds may also be used for certain official or officially-connected travel. However, when the primary purpose of a trip is personal in nature, the airfare of that trip may not be paid with campaign funds, and must be paid with personal funds. A Member takes his family on a post-election vacation trip. Even though the trip is made so

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that the family can rest after the campaign, campaign funds may not be used to pay any of the trip expenses. A Member is taking a one-week trip that has a recreational purpose, except that during the trip, she will attend a party fund-raising dinner. Campaign funds may not be used to pay the airfare for the trip, and may be used solely to pay the additional meal or lodging expenses if any that the Member necessarily incurs in attending that dinner. When campaign outlays for travel are frequent and extensive, the need to maintain specific, written records is paramount. The FEC regulations are briefly noted later in this chapter, and under them, payment of travel expenses is one of the uses for which the FEC makes determinations on impermissible personal use on a case-by-case basis. A number of FEC advisory opinions on the permissibility of using campaign funds to pay travel expenses in various circumstances are noted in the preceding section of this chapter. Campaign funds may be used to pay meal expenses. When the attendees include only friends or relatives, and the above-stated requirements for campaign payment for such a meal are satisfied, the maintenance of specific, written records is essential. In these circumstances, the records should specifically describe the campaign agenda of the meal. As with campaign outlays for travel, when the outlays for meals are frequent and extensive, the need to maintain specific, written records is paramount.

Chapter 4 : U.S. Representative Jack Bergman

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