

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

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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

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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.